

Journal. 1914-
1916.

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Waltham, Mass.

1914

January 5

At noon to-day I learned by telephone

BaltimoreBirdsin
midwinter

from Mrs. Worcester of Waltham that she had seen them this morning, in a thickly-settled neighborhood near the Watch Factory, a male Baltimore Oriole which was in strikingly handsome and apparently fully matured plumage. For some two weeks past this bird has been coming, she was told, to the piazza of a house (# 274 Crescent Street) where there are still shrivelled Delaware grapes clinging numerously to the vines. She saw the Oriole there and also saw that the floor of the piazza was thickly strewn with the skins of the grapes which it had eaten. A family living next door had been keeping a close watch on the bird & are much interested in it. (Walter Deane went there on January 6 hoping to see it but failed to do so.

It was last seen, he tells me, rather early in the morning of that day.)

Cambridge, Mass.

1914.

January 14

Loring M. Blanchard of Newry, Maine, called on me this forenoon bringing the skin of a very large & old Black Bear killed last autumn near Poplar Tavern. He says Bears occur as commonly there now as ever before. Some of his other testimony relating to conditions there & at the Lake is as follows:

Blanchard's
call &
testimony.

The nest of the Saw-whet Owl found by Blanchard several years ago in Newry was in a yellow birch by the roadside. He found it by happening to see the bird looking out of the entrance hole which was of about her size. Passing that way almost daily after this he could always make he shows himself there by a whistled imitation of the whet-saw notes. The nest was not disturbed until he thought the bird had completed her run when he broke it open & found four eggs in the cavity which was almost as deep as a water seal.

Nest of
Saw-whet
at
Newry, Maine

He wrote me about this at the time. The eggs were sold to,
John B. Hooper.

1914

January 14

(No. 2)

Blanchard claims to have introduced Horned Ponds
into Loch Umbagog "thirteen years ago" i. e. in 1900 or 1901. Horned
Ponds in
L. Umbagog

The lake was swarming with them when I was last
there in June 1909 but all I saw then were no more
than one-half grown. Blanchard says that they are
now mostly of maximum size and so numerous &
greedy that they may be caught almost anywhere as
fast as they can be taken off the hook & re-baited.
When the refuse from Dutton's camp is thrown into
the lake they assemble to feast on it by thousands
so that the water is fairly black with them. Thus
far they have increased steadily & continuously with
no let backs.

Blanchard asserts that the epidemics which
annihilate the Pickeral so completely occur regularly every

Pickeral
epidemics

seventh year and that the last one happened in 1912.
He failed to find a single Pickeral in the lake last summer.

Cambridge, Mass.

1914

January 31

A Brown Thrasher is wintering here. He was first noted by me on November 23 last in our Garden where we saw him again on December 14, 19, 20, 21, 23, 30.

a wintering
Brown Thrasher
in our
Garden.

On the 31st he was seen by one of C. T. Bartholomew's sons in grounds on Willard Street. After that I lost track of him until January when he reappeared in our Garden.

Since then he has roosted frequently, and for the past few nights regularly, in the honey-suckle vine that runs up a trellis on the left side of the Museum door.

Into this he comes at nightfall, usually ten or fifteen minutes before sunset, always settling on the same perch in a dense cluster of tendrils about on a level with my head, as I stand on the upper step, and not two feet from it then. But he will now sit there quite motionless when I pass in or out, or even when I stop to look at him in the twilight,

Cambridge, Mass.

1914.

January 31
(hs 2)

although at first given to flying off whenever the door was opened or shut. At 6 o'clock to-night I saw him climb against the sky in his usual place although it was raining heavily and overflow water from a clogged gutter above deluging his retreat every half minute or so. By late he has spent his days elsewhere than within our grounds & probably at the rear of our old house, 149 Brattle Street, where Professor F. W. Putnam is said to have been feeding him for two weeks or more. We have had Indian meat spread for him on a tray among the leaves and something has been eating it whole over I saw him in the early morning within a yard of it. He is a handsome bird, apparently in vigorous condition and full plumage. He will not permit very close approach in the daytime.

Cambridge, Mass.

1914.

February 1
to
March 3

Brown
Thrasher
in
our Garden

The Brown Thrasher which was first noted in our garden on November 23 last, and afterwards at intervals in December and January, was almost constantly present through February, surviving a temperature of -13° Fahr. on the 12th (said to have been the coldest day for eighteen years) and more than a week of exceptionally severe and continuous cold about that time, as well as a rather prolonged period succeeding it when the ground was covered with snow averaging in depth from ten to twenty - two inches. Of course he could not have done this but for the food liberally and constantly supplied by our neighbor, Professor Putnam, and that on our part out for him, also - ours being chiefly mixed corn & oat meal and bread crumbs. During February the bird came to his roost in the vine by the Museum door on the evenings of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 13th, and 16th.

Cambridge, Mass.

1914

February 1

March 3

(No 2)

28th. On the evening of the 18th he was seen to fly into some pines in the yard where ^{he} doubtless spent not only that night but various others when the vine house was not occupied. In or near the place at the rear of the house we saw him by day when he was not noticed that evening on the 19th, 21st, 26th and 27th.

Without doubt he would have resorted more constantly to the vine to roost had he not been so frequently disturbed there by people passing in and out the door. The Muttall Club meetings must have proved especially trying to his nerves and indeed I think that he was repeatedly driven away by them although withstanding at least one or two early in the winter. Towards the last of his stay he became so nervous as often to fly from the vine and not return to it again that evening, when one or another of us approached it

Brown
Throated
in
our Garden

Cambridge, Mass.

1914

February 1
to
March 3

(he 3)

Brown
Throated
in
the Garden

from within or without the building. It returned to it for the last time on the evening of March 2 and then permitted us to go in and out several times between sunset and dark without moving from a perch somewhat higher up and further back than the one that he had hitherto always occupied. Unfortunately the Nuttall Club met that night at eight o'clock and after all the members had departed at eleven I found that the Thrasher had also gone. Percy saw him next morning on the ground under the Parkmann's apple tree, this being the final date of observation. Hence the bird was with us more or less continuously from November 23 to March 3 following. At the latter date the weather was mild and the ground partly bare. After it we had no temperature lower than 18° and only one

snow fall - which was of trifling amount & soon melted.
(at the date of writing the above (March 15) the ground is almost wholly bare)

Cambridge, Mass.

1914.

March 17

A prolonged succession of kla-kla-kla cries, given very rapidly in a shrill, falsetto voice, fell on my ears about 9 a.m. as I was standing in front of the Museum. Thinking they must come from a Sparrow Hawk, performing a low flight, I scanned the heavens for such a bird. It was not until hearing them for the third time that I turned down to an apple tree in which were three Hairy Woodpeckers hopping about near together, bowing and scraping precisely like so many Flickers. That the Sparrow-Hawk-like notes (they were very like) were uttered by one of the Hairy Woodpeckers is almost beyond question although I did not actually see about such was the case, being too far off. Nor did I ascertain the respective sexes of the members of this interesting trio.

Hairy
Woodpecker
uttering
unfamiliar
notes

Cambridge, Mass.

1914

March 17

(No 2)

Passing around Fresh Pond in a motor car this forenoon I saw upwards of one hundred Black Ducks and a few Herring Gulls standing or lying on the ice along the edge of a large space of open water in Boat Haven Cove which the cut-off (where the fountain used to be) has kept open or less frozen from ice all winter. The pond elsewhere is still frozen over - rather solidly, it seemed.

After leaving it I motored to Concord, in a steady, fine rain, without getting eyes on a single bird of any kind.

I fully expected to see Bluebirds, if not Robins & Blackbirds also, for the fields are almost wholly free from snow & have been for nearly a week.

Water
found in
Fresh
Pond.

No birds
seen
between
Cambridge
Concord

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17
(no 3)

Reached our farm house at 12.15 noon. Shortly after this the driving rain, which had been falling, ceased and the sun shone bright & warm. The remainder of the day was cloudless, windless and altogether Spring-like. I was out, walking about the place from 3 to 6 P.M. Plenty of snow & ice in evergreen woods but fields mostly bare except for wasting drifts on northely exposures especially those shaded by brush and stone walls. Mud or water everywhere and ploughed lands almost impassable. Heard three voices characteristic of early Spring:- the ringing screams of a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks soaring high over the orchard and over Pulpit Rock woods, the shouting of a Flicker in Birch Field, the raucous croaking of a Wood Frog (only one) in a pool at the edge of the

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17
(No 4)

found in our Berry Pasture, which, for the most part, remains encased in solid ice. Although the afternoon conditions were especially favorable for the singing of Bluebirds and Song Sparrows I heard none. Dusen, however, reports seeing a Bluebird in Carlisle yesterday and Davis (the marketman) a flock of about twenty Geese flying northward over Concord bridge late in the afternoon of the 15th. There were several Crows flitting to and fro about the Farm all this afternoon. Their subdued cawing, mingling with the crowing of roosters, came pleasantly to the ears at frequent intervals. Less pleasing were the chattering of our or near House Sparrows which must have been in or near our front yard. Taken altogether the country seemed dreary & nearly lifeless.

Concord, Mass.

1914

March 19

Yesterday (a stormy day) I saw 5 Juncos, 2 Crows and a
cock Pheasant. To-day (clear & cold with violent N.W. wind)

Birds
extremely
scarce

I noted 1 Junco, 2 Crows, a cock Pheasant and some
Lutes Redpolls (heard in North Field). This meagre list
would seem to indicate that birds are exceedingly scarce
here now and that few, if any, migrants have arrived, or
yet, from farther south.

No migrants
have yet

In North Field I found to-day most of the feathers
of a hen Partridge among sweet fern in an opening where
the sun had melted the snow. A Coy had evidently killed
the bird & eaten her on the spot, after biting off her wing
& tail feather. It must have happened weeks ago for the
feathers were frozen together in a compact mass. The Partridge
was probably sleeping under deep snow when caught.

Partridge
killed & eaten
by
Coy.

A Gray Squirrel among very slender pendant twigs in
the top of a tall elm, swaying to & fro in the violent wind
and looking precisely like an Oriole's nest.

Gray
Squirrel.

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 20-31. The 20th & 21st were cold days which failed to bring any migrants from the South. During a snow storm on the 22nd a Song Sparrow, the very first harbinger of Spring, appeared in the Forsythia thicket in front of our house but uttered only a few calls. The 23rd was a chilly day with snow squalls & without other than winter birds. The 24th was clear, calm and comfortably warm but I noted nothing of interest save a large Crow nest and a Shrike in full song in an apple tree. The 25th was sunny, almost windless & very warm. Heard my first Bluebird. A Nuthatch & a Chickadee singing near the house & Red-shouldered Hawks perching in the distance. Saw a Sparrow Hawk alight in the big elm in dooryard. Gilbert saw flock of 9 Brown Grackles flying northward, high up, at 8 a.m. Straggling north-bound flight of Crows 8-10 a.m. About 30 birds passed, mostly singly, none more than 3 or 4 together, some at immense height looking no bigger than Robins.

Winter
Anthraxes
continued
absence of
birds
First
Song Sparrow

First
nest

First
Bluebird

Sparrow H

Brown
Grackles

Crows
migrating
singly

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 20-31

(No 2.)

The 26th and 27th were for the most part sunny and windless and almost uncomfortably warm especially on the 27th when the temperature rose to 72°.

Heavy
flight of
early
spring birds

On the 26th I heard countless Bluebirds. All day long, wherever I went, the songs or calls fell on my ears at short intervals, yet I saw only a few of them.

Flood of
Bluebirds

Heard Robins calling twice. Dexter reports them at Concord Village yesterday & to-day & Song Sparrows also. Saw my first Butterfly a large, ragged-winged brown one. First snow drops in bloom front of house.

First Robins

The 27th brought an exceptionally heavy flight of early spring migrants chiefly Robins, Song Sparrows Bluebirds and Blackbirds (Red-wings & Cow-birds & our Rusty). The whole country was simply flooded with Bluebirds and Song Sparrows and their sweet voices fell almost constantly on

First
Red-wings
Cow-birds
&
Rusty Black

Countless
Song Sparrows

Barnes, Mass.

1914.

March 20-31
(No 3)

my ears coming from far & near in every direction, throughout open farm lands and orchards. I cannot remember ever before noting greater numbers of cotton spears anywhere in the course of a single day.

The influx of Robins was equally great and in some respects especially interesting. They began to appear about 7 a. m. and continued to come at frequent intervals for the next two hours, mostly in parties of 5 or 6 although I saw 15 in one flock and 29 or 30 in another. Almost all seemed to be working northward by short flights. Some pitched down into our apple trees or elms from a considerable height & after eating awhile mounted again into the air to resume their journeying. Most had disappeared by noon but a few remained until sundown singing gloriously there as well as early in the

Influx
of
Robins
migrating
by day

Covead, Mass.

1914.

March 20-31

(No 4)

forenoon. Most of what I continued was apparently diurnal migration of birds toward still further north although a small proportion were probably our local summer resident birds.

The first Phoebe appeared this day. One was in full song at dinner in our dooryard and I heard another about noon on the Petunia place.

First
Phoebe

Red-shouldered Hawks were screaming all day long and during most of the time one or two were in sight, soaring high in air over field & wood. I saw one shoot down at a steep angle, hundreds of feet, with metric speed, screaming all the while.

Red-shouldered
Hawks.

Two Starlings passed low over our barn at about 8 a. m. flying northward very rapidly.

Starlings

Saw the first Anthopa Butterfly.

Anthopa
Butterfly

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17
to
May 31.

I was at Concord this spring quite continuously from March
March 17 to April 2 and later (after a visit to Washington) almost
the entire time from April 18 to June 5. When I first reached there
there was plenty of snow in the woods but little or none in fields &
roads. The channel of the river was open but fields of ice still
covered much of the flooded meadows. Up to the close of March the
weather was for the most part cold with occasional light snow falls
& the ground hard frozen almost every morning. But the 25th 26th &
27th were comparatively warm days on the coast of which the temperatures
rose to 72°. Up to this time birds had been very scarce with almost
no migrants coming from the South but there was a general arrival
of Bluebirds on the 26th and a perfect flock of Robins, Bluebirds &
Song Sparrows on the 27th when I also noted the first Phoebe, Cow-bird,
Red-wings & Rusty Blackbirds - all exceptionally late, of course.
Fox Sparrows began coming on the 29th and there was a rather strong
flight of juncos on the 30th. One Hylee peeping & 2 House-Wrens arriving on 31st

Bowdoin, Mass.

1914.

March 17

to
May 21.

Concerning conditions of weather, bird flights etc. at Bowdoin during the April, earlier part of April I have no definite knowledge because of absence at Washington. During the latter half of the month there was much chilly and not a little rainy weather with an occasional warm day. As late as the 24th the ground was hard frozen in the shadow of trees. Because of such conditions the advance of spring during this period was slow & halting and vegetation remained unusually backward up to the close of the month. Nor was there any marked increase of migrant birds although many species became represented by a few pioneer individuals and, not long after, the average date of arrival. Those that had come earlier on their way farther north arrived uncommonly late. Thus we had juncos in considerable numbers through the month and one or two Fox Sparrows stayed on up to May 2. The flights of both species were lighter than usual this year. Garden Larks began their musical trilling on the 19th.

Concord, Mass.

1914

March 17

to
May 31.

(No 3)

May-day was decidedly wintry in character for a violent May.
& piercingly chilly N.W. wind neutralized the warmth of sunbeams from a cloudless sky. Moreover there was actually ice in the early morning, as thick as window glass in a pan in our front yard, thinning over nearly a shallow puddle in the muddy walk. After this the weather became more normal and was for the next fortnight through the month. On the 26th the temperature rose to 90° & on the 27th to 92°. I noticed the first unfolded apple blossoms on the 11th, but our trees were not generally in full bloom until the 18th were wholly out of bloom before the 25th. At the latter date the oak leaves were $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ grown and not fully developed until the very end of the month. The first gypsy moth larvae hatched on the 14th, Dragon flies appeared in great numbers on the 28th. Four of the migrating Bats reappeared in our shed loft on the 9th. On the 10th there were nine, on the 11th ~~fourteen~~ ^{thirteen} which proved to be the maximum number or at least remained so until June 3.

Bowcord, Mass.

1914.

March 17

May 31

(No 4)

May

July

The May flight of migrating birds was disappointing and indeed one of the most meagre I have ever known. They came a few at a time, with never anything approaching a "flock". Of species bound still farther north exceedingly few were noted, even the Black-birds failing to appear in any numbers. Almost the only exception to this was furnished by the White-throated Sparrows of which there was a really heavy flight, especially on the 7th when I noted upwards of sixty birds at the Farm & Boker's Hill. Two White-crowns appeared at the Farm within one of the higest summer days, feeding on hemp & millet seed in front of the house and singing freely & delightfully when not thus employed. Almost no migrating Warblers visited the apple orchard, even when the trees were in full bloom, but I did see a ♀ Cape May in one of them - on the 21st. The Bay-breast wholly escaped my observation this spring & so also did Wilson's Black cap while only a few Magnolia & Blackburnian Warblers were seen.

Conecord, Mass.

1914.

March 17

to
May 31

(No 5)

May notes.

Swarthmore's Thrushes were less numerous than usual & I saw no Gray-checked or Bicknell's Thrushes. Hermits, also, were scarce. Ruby-crowned Kinglets passed in fair numbers.

Our local Summer Birds came dribbling in, a few at a time, later than last but after all had arrived most of the species was quite as well represented as usual and some rather more so. Chipping & House Flycatchers were exceptionally plentiful, Bobwhites and Orioles in average numbers, Robins much scarcer than of yore yet no more so than last year.

Field Sparrows occurred only sparingly as north-bound migrants, none remaining to breed. Chickadees & Downy Woodpeckers were almost locally extinct, there being certainly not more than two pairs of the former & one of the latter in the entire wooded region (300 acres) included within our estate. Tuxon thinks both species suffered severely last winter & we doubt he is right. Ruffed Grouse & Pheasants were in normal numbers.

Barnes, Mass.

1914.

March 17

to
May 31

(No 6)

The river meadows remained flooded through April & May. For the first time within my recollection they were comparatively & indeed almost literally barren of bird life during both months. A few Red-wings were scattered over them at season of calm, even coming in April, singing in the tops of flooded bushes and on the Buttricks were heard perching around their cogs in early May but after the middle of the latter month I failed to note either species there. Driven from their ancestral haunts by the exceptionally prolonged stage of high water the Red-wings resorted to ground to various brook meadows lying well back from the river. I heard of Buttricks breeding in similar haunts but did not personally verify such reports. Swamp Sparrows seemed to be entirely absent, even in the heavily swampy behind Ball's Hill, and I failed to note a single Rail of any kind. There was a few Black Ducks, *torquatus* & *gambelii* on the flooded meadows early in the season & some Black Ducks in May. Geese were scarce & I saw no Grebes or Fish Hawks.

May notes

Barnstable, Mass.

1914.

March 17

to
May 31

(No 7)

Deer were exceedingly scarce. I saw fresh tracks of a Carib doe in the Berry Pasture in April and track of another (or perhaps the same) in North Field late in May, but obtained no other evidence of their presence. None was any seen by the men (or tracked by them) last winter.

I saw one or two Chipmunks at Balls Bluff but none at the farm where they were completely exterminated by Cats last year. Less Red Squirrels than in March of this year probably near the farm for later as I failed to see or hear them after May 1. Gray Squirrels, even as numerous there as usual early in the season but towards its close they, too, were evidently disappearing fast. As I actually saw one (of the largest size) caught & killed by a cat in front of the house on April 27 & as Teph reported seeing another which a Cat was carrying home along the road it seems probable that their decrease must have been caused by these feline depredations although they do not appear to me suffers much in such a way in Cambridge.

Barnes, Mass.

1914

March 17

May 31

(No 8)

Cats of every size and color, coming presumably from nearby
farms, literally swarmed about our house & grounds & in neighboring
woodland, all through the Spring months until at length I bought
a little Irish terrier who seemed to drive many of them off
Cats in May. One that seemed fascinat^d of the day and incessantly
interested in a pair of Cat-birds nesting in front of the house
felt a victim to my gun towards the close of my stay but I
did not directly molest any of the others save by throwing stones
at them occasionally. As far as I was able to ascertain
they got no birds near often tried to but spent most of their
time watching the stone walls & beds of meadow grass, presumably
for Squirrels & mice. Certainly a pair of Song Sparrows hatched
& reared their young this Spring, as well as Cat, in a ground
nest in long grass within a few feet of a foot path traversed
daily by several different Cats. Nevertheless it disturbed my peace
of mind to see so many Cats about, as I have just indicated

Cowdell, Mass.

1914

March 17

April 31

(No 9)

Bird-killing Hawks were exceptionally scarce this Spring and our numerous Chockers were not harassed by them or by the Crows. I saw Cooper's Hawks & Sharp-shins only once or twice near the farm & doubt if they did much harm there although the features of a grouse which one of them was once killed were found among some bracken bordering the lawn. Red shouldered Hawks were as common and everywhere as usual. A pair occupied the nest in the big chestnut on Nahant's Hill & others were apparently breeding to the westward of the farm in the Estabrook woods. A male Marsh Hawk came skimming through our fields or over the Orchard every few days & his mate was seen there occasionally. Sparrow Hawks also feed us a visit every now & then. Starlings were seen once at the farm & especially near Flatt's bridge where a pair nested in a hollow apple tree on the old Bultrick place according to its present owner, Sكتور Bultrick.

Bowdoin, Mass.

1914.

March 37

May 31

(1914)

There were plenty of Brown-Tailed Nests but only a very few were tenanted so we cut them off only in the orchard trees & in the Bay Postum. In the woods they did little harm except near Bowdoin's Landing on Baker Hill where they threatened to strip the oaks which had to be sprayed. At least 90% of them must have perished during the winter, as some suggest because of the extreme cold although Dr. Howard believes that insect parasites were the chief cause of their destruction.

Gypsy Nests began hatching on May 14. Two of them had attained a greater length than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch by the close of the month when the oaks were in nearly full leaf & showing little signs of injury. The larvae were numerous enough in spots of limited extent but nowhere abundantly & generally distributed, at that date and were then dying by thousands of the "wile" although still so very small. Hence our spraying operations were

much less extended & expensive than usual. costing in all perhaps \$200. whereas last year & in 1912 I must have spent \$1000. each year.

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17
to
May 31.

(No 11)

The worst infested (by gypsy larvae) spots this year are the northern portion of our Berry Pasture, the oaks in the Run bordering on the Beech place and those in the opening behind Bobs Hill. Those on Blackman Ridge are also rather bad. Ball's Hill itself is almost free from the "gyps" & quite so from brown-tails. When the former raged most last year as in Beech Field there are few or none now. Elsewhere in Concord the oak woods look better than for several years past even where they have had no protection. Dr. Howard thinks that the worst is over as regards "gyps" & "brown-tails".

Tree Caterpillars were worse last year than I had ever before known them. They were still more numerous this spring fairly loading apple & pear cherry trees with their repellent "tarts" and stripping all foliage of box & other trees where they were left unmolested. I saw all one fruit tree & most of one wild cherry by timely spraying. I must think Caterpillars were bad in spots but on the whole no worse than last year.

Barnard, Mass.

1914

March 17

to
May 31.

The killing of the Gray Squirrel by the Cat, to which I have briefly referred, is worth describing more fully. It happened about mid-day on April 27. All the while that Gilbert & I were at dinner (12-12.30) the Cat (a large mottled & white one) was sitting erect & still in the middle of the field in front of the house which had been ploughed last autumn. She was so very conspicuous there that no one could have failed to notice her on the first glance. Shortly after dinner she began moving about slowly and uncertainly with her nose to the ground like a dog seeking a cold scent. Then she made a long, swift, gliding run to a deep furrow in which she crouched so flat as to be lost to my view. Only a few seconds later an uncommonly large Gray Squirrel appeared ambling sedately towards the center of the field from woods to the south of it. Apparently quite oblivious to the presence of the crouching Cat he kept on at first straight for her & then veered a little to the left of where she lay. As he was passing it at a distance of perhaps twenty yards she sprang out from the furrow

Concord, Mass

1914.

March 17

to
May 31

(No 13)

when he instantly wheeled and fled back towards the woods.

She pursued with amazing speed, covering the ground by an unbroken succession of long, graceful bounds and going at least two feet to his own. Overtaken before the nearest tree could be reached he dodged her once successfully by a sudden turn but she soon overshot him then and caught him only a second or two later. For perhaps half a minute later there was a confused & animated struggle difficult to trace, during which the Cat seemed to roll over & over with the Squirrel sometimes uppermost & fighting as best he could for life. It was soon over when the Cat rose to her feet and trotted off into the woods holding the Squirrel in her mouth & carrying her head high & proudly. As far as I could make out the Squirrel was then quite dead but his firm, bushy tail was kept waving to & fro either by the Cat's movements or by wind.

Why he had failed to notice her before entering the field is difficult to understand.

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17

to
May 31

(No 14)

Foxes have been scarce or wanting in our neighborhood for several years past. I doubt if any live there permanently but as I have found no occupied "carts" of late while trails have often been wholly wanting after snow falls. Nevertheless the animals continue to visit us as unfrequented intruders. I noted two this spring. The first was met with in Birch Field in mid-afternoon of April 19, a clear, warm day.

I was walking quietly along a cane path near the Spring when slight rustling sounds in dense brush to our right attracted my attention & brought me to a stand-still. A moment later I saw a very large Fox, within 20 yards, stealing off at a slow, gliding trot with head and brush held low. He looked as black as a black cat but this I attributed at first to the dense shade of Birch & some young pines. Until, at length, he showed his fine bushy tail rather distinctly for an instant in a comparatively open space when I saw that it, at least, was black, or nearly so, with a broadly white tip. As to the coloring of his head & body I could not be sure, because of the dim light & intervening screen of branches.

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17
to
May 31.

(has 15)

A conductor on the Lexington - Concord branch of the Boston & Maine
R.R. who hunts Foxes with Hawks every autumn assured me last

year that he & his friends had reportedly started a Black or Silver Grey

Fox not far to the southwest of us and had occasionally driven

it into our woods. He has known of its presence in this region

for several years past. Without much doubt it was the same

one I saw. My second observation above referred to was by

car alone - on the evening of May 19 when as G. B. & I

were sitting in the parlor of the farm house we heard the creature

begin "barking". When we opened the front door the hoarse, gurgling,

throaty sounds seemed to come from very near at hand and apparently

from the run just across the field in front of the house. As I

listened to them they impressed me deeply by their social, uneasy

quality. Some were subdued & husky, others rang out loud & startling

& had an agonized expression, suggesting intense fear or pain.

Yet they varied but little in other respects being clearly akin in form.

They reminded me most of the choking sound of a steam engine
& were wholly unlike the barking of dogs of any breed.

Cowdard, Mass.

1914

March 17

to
May 31

(No 16)

In the days of my early youth a deep hollow in Dr. Wymann's Fairy Shrimp place on Sparks St., Cambridge, always abounded, when filled with water by rain & melting snow in April, with aquatic creatures of wondrous form & hues, which our boys used to dip up & take home in preserved jars or similar glass receptacles. They were a scant inch in length, as I remember them, and swam on their backs by means of delicate & numerous plum-like filaments waving rhythmically. Some were salmon, others pinkish, but others almost were colored. I have never seen anything like them since until this spring when Mr. Dexter informed me that he was accustomed to finding them near Providence & that Harry Richardson knew of a pond hole near Fairhaven Bay where they occur. We intended to look for them there but having no good opportunity sought & found them abundantly in two ponds behind Ball's Hill. All were again almost brown, some dull olive green. Edward Lumsden thinks this their normal color but Dexter has seen pink & even tinted ones like

Concord, Mass.

1914

March 17

to

May 31.

(No 17)

those we used to get in Cambridge. He called them "Fairy Shrimp"
and says that the scientific name is Branchipus. Emerson knows
them as "Mormons" and with Ned Bowler was wont, in his
youth, to find them in a little pond near Fairyland. He
thinks that the Concord ones are more brilliantly colored
but Dexter opines that they are so in early spring. I am
inclined to suspect that those we saw near Ball's Hall must
belong to a different species from those inhabiting the Cambridge
pond in times long past. The former were not only much darker
colored but also more lively & wary, darting off like tiny
Pickard, when closely approached. We caught a few & took
them to two jars in a glass jar but they all died
during the following night.

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17

to

May 31.

(No 18)

1. Wood Thrush. On May 7 one was heard singing, near his home in Concord village, by S. O. Dexter. I failed to note the species anywhere in our neighborhood which it seems to have permanently deserted.

2. Wilson's Thrush. Arrived May 11. Began singing on the 20th.

Apparently less numerous than usual. Only one pair at Farm (in Run & Berry Pasture) and not more than two pairs near Bolt's Hill, with a fourth pair located near the Barrett Spring in Birch Field.

3. Scofield's Thrush. Unusually scarce. I heard one calling in the leaves at the rear of our farm house on May 22 & saw another in Prescott's farm woods on the 19th. Dexter heard one singing near Mrs. Davis' house on June 2.

4. Hermit Thrush. Little, if any, obvious north-bound migration seen perhaps on May 2, when a single bird was found in Prescott's farm, & on the next day, when two were seen together on the Run at foot of Camp.

One appeared in Birch Field on April 19 & two on the 20th. No doubt the pair that bred there last year. I saw them almost daily through last week of April & heard the ♂ in full song there on May 9 & 20, but on no other date.

Concord, Mass

1914.

March 27

to

May 31

(no 19)

5. Robin. Dexter saw the first Robin in Concord Valley on March 25.

I heard one calling in Back Field on Apr 26th. Next morning (27th)

There was a perfect flood of Robins arriving from South. Between 7 & 10 A.M. They were constantly in sight or hearing and singing freely there and all around. Most of the birds comprised in the morning in-rush were in flocks some of which contained upwards of 30 members each. All were moving northwest restlessly flying at us great height above the tree tops & occasionally falling down into fields or trees to rest or feed although many kept on without any such halt. The evening singing indicated that at least some of our local summer birds had come & this was doubtless the case for after that I saw a few daily. More arrived about the middle of April. After that we had at least four pairs settled to breed within one hundred yards or less of the farm house & one pair built a nest near the cabin at Balls Hill but unfortunately disappeared being either killed by Hawks or driven away by Jays.

Concord, Mass.

1914.

March 17

^{to}
May 31.

(Robin) At the farm a Robin began building, early in May, on a wooden shelf under the eaves of the old barn. For upwards of two weeks she worked industriously, and though some days almost ceaselessly, without making the least permanent headway for literally all the material she brought was blown off the smooth shelf by the wind, often as fast as she left it there. It consisted chiefly of dry grass and weed stalks with now and then green blades or fronds of grass, weeds (including dandelions & tansy) and leaves. All these littered the ground under the eaves profusely, and were sometimes retrieved from it by the bird almost immediately after they had fallen there although she usually, went further afield, for fresh material. When, at length, we decided to interfere in her behalf the shelf remained almost perfectly bare. But within an hour after we had nailed a piece of board 2" wide to its outer edge the bird began to make some progress & by the end of the next two days her nest was

1914.

March 17
to
May 31

(No 2.)

completed. It consisted of no more than a shagreen mat of the material above mentioned covering the entire shelf (about 2' x 10" in surface area) to a depth of from 2" to 4" and held in place by our chest, no mud being used. Somewhere near the middle of this mass of trash the bird laid her eggs and hatched them successfully. I saw her taking food to the young for a week or more and without doubt she got them out safely in the end but that I did not see. It would be interesting to know whether or not this was a young Robin. Quite evidently she had no knowledge of the art of nest building usually characteristic of her kind but knew no more than to bring together a lot of stuff so light & fragile that the merest breath of wind would sweep it off the shelf. Another interesting question is as to how the Robin could have retained her eggs so long. She did not lay them until more than two weeks after the

1914

March 17

to

May 31

(No 22)

nest was begun yet when she began to she must have
expected to deposit them within a few days, such, at least,
being customary with birds of her species

Another Robin at the Farm built her a dozen about
equally trashy nests under the eaves of the Bungabow, taking
material first into one space between supporting roof timbers
and then into another, evidently being unable to distinguish
between these precisely similar spaces. She, too, worked for
at least a couple of weeks and then gave it up without
laying in any of the nests, probably because she was so
often disturbed by members of my farm's family. A
third bird nested in a grape vine three days to the pigeon
house and a fourth built in an apple tree in the
orchard. Both these reared their first broods. A bird that
nested first in an oak over the road & now in a pine
in front of the Bungabow was unsuccessful both times

Cambridge, Mass.

1915.

March 28

Blue jays have frequented our grounds all winter in numbers varying from two or three to six or eight. They have subsisted mostly on bread thrown out for them or for the Squirrels and have also been seen eating the fruit of Pockmann's apple in company with Titlins and Purple Finches. One that I watched this morning ate the pulp of two nightshade berries, after peeling them to pieces very delicately, thereby making more than "two bites" of each. This happened directly beneath my study window in a thicket of Rhododendrons constantly haunted of late by two jays, evidently a mated pair. They spend much of their time perched close together on twigs only a foot or two above the ground and within two yards of the window, thereby enabling me to watch them to excellent advantage. For two weeks or more I have heard one of them, presumably the male, singing

Blue jays
in the
Garden

Eating
Nightshade
Berries.

Cambridge, Mass.

1915.

March 28

(No 3)

Colaptes. It may be kept up ceaselessly for minutes at a time and with occasional brief intermissions for an hour or more. I have had it almost constantly in my ears while writing the foregoing account of it.

Song of
Blue Jay

March 30

Now, at 12.30 P.M., the Jay is singing again almost ceaselessly, just outside my study window.

Among the fainter notes he keeps interpreting the usual loud bell call and with equal frequency an effort imitation of the Flicker's hi-uck or hi-on.

This I have not known happen before.

Earlier in the day I saw one Jay of this mated pair pluck a golden nightshade berry and take it to the other (only a few feet away) who at once accepted and swallowed it, at the same time quivering its half-expanded wings and tail just as young birds are accustomed to do when fed.

Cambridge, Mass.

1915-

March 28

(No 2)

almost daily, oftener between eleven and twelve

Song of

Blue Jay

o'clock in the forenoon when the sun was shining brightly.

He utters an infinite variety of notes unlike the usual calls and so low-pitched that I doubt if any of them could be heard more than fifty yards away yet one and all come to my ears with perfect distinctness through the closed windows when the bird is in the rhododendron thicket near by. Some are heard more than whispers; others subdued chatters and whinnings, intermingling with guttural or squeaky sounds; still others brief musical chantings; others again delightfully liquid in quality. Taken altogether the medley is not unlike that of a Catbird singing softs over but less replete with mimicry although sometimes including notes obviously borrowed from other birds among which I heard the chirp of an junco and the whicker of

Concord, Mass.

1915.

April, May
June.

I went to Concord for the first time this year on March 31 and remained there continuously—excepting for an occasional day spent in Cambridge or Boston—up to June 3, living altogether at the Farm and seldom even visiting Ball's Hill. After this I was there again June 10-13 and 21-26. Constantly out of doors at most hours of daylight I was enabled to keep a rather close watch on the bird and other animal life in fields, orchards and woodland near our house. Despite the fact that my chief attention had to be given to farm work and gardening or to supervising men engaged in it. There were always frequent opportunities for taking short walks into the woods, however, especially in late afternoon when I rarely failed to have a quiet stroll, usually either to Birch Field or through the Berry Pasture, with "Tim", the keen little Irish terrier, as my sole companion.

It was delightful to thus have opportunity for noting and enjoying the oncoming of Spring and early summer—this year more gradual and even than usual because of the general absence of extreme fluctuations of temperature. We had, it is true, a belated and very heavy frost on the night of May 26-27 when water froze in pans, to the thickness of window glass, but there were no exceptionally warm days before June—oh, indeed, July—and the nights were uniformly cool while the weather was almost continuously fine with little or no rainfall through April and May and no snowfall whatever save on April 3, when the ground was covered briefly to a depth of some ten inches with heavy slushy snow. Because of these conditions vegetation advanced slowly and evenly and the blooming period of most Spring flowers was unusually protracted. Rarely if ever before have I known migrating birds bound further north so little in midsummer clothing than now. In April there was literally no well-marked flight except ~~of finches~~ on the 7th and 23rd while the only May flight of warblers worth mentioning occurred on the 22nd of that month. On various other

Spring
notes

Slow oncoming
of Spring &
summer.

Belated frost

Late snowfall.

Slower of
vegetation

Scarcity of
north-bound
migrants.

Concord, Mass.

1915.

April, May
June
(No 3)

The spring chorus of Batrachian voices began much later than usual and indeed not until April 8 when Wood Frogs were croaking by scores, all the afternoon in the pond hole below our orchard. I heard the first Hyla on the evening of the 9th and the first Garden Toad on that of the 18th.

Batrachians

The first Bat appeared in our wood shed loft on April 27, thereby establishing the only arrival record for that month that I have ever noted. It remained there alone until May 6 when another joined it. On the 7th there were five Bats in this loft; on the 8th eight; on the 9th eleven; on the 10th eleven; on the 11th twelve; on the 13th, 14th & 15th, fifteen; on the 16th and thereafter up to the end of June, sixteen. In cool weather they invariably spent the day clinging all together in a compact cluster but when the weather was very warm they scattered about singly. I scouted for the appearance of young but saw none.

Migratory
Bats.

Deer scarce this spring. None reported seen. I saw the tracks of one at the Farm and of another near Ball's Hill, in April or May. Gray Squirrels less numerous than usual, yet common enough especially about the Farm. One behaved like an egg robber. The birds evidently regarded him as such, chasing him away whenever he approached their nests. To him I am inclined to attribute the ~~destroying~~ of nests in apple & other orchard trees, almost all of which were despoiled of fresh-laid eggs & had their linings torn out. Jays may have been partly responsible for this but the Squirrel was, I fear, chiefly so. The Robin reared his young in a nest under the eave of a piazza, another on the wood pile in our shed, and in a third in an apple tree close to the house. The Squirrel finally came prowling about these nests, apparently with sinister intent, but I peppered him with a light charge of shot shot at long range and after that he kept away from them. Another Gray took

DeerGray Squirrels

Bowdoin, Mass.

1915.

April, May
June
(No 4)

forebode possession of a *Thalassidroma* here in an isolated apple tree near our well house and gave birth to several young therein. A few days afterwards our Irish terrier "Jim" caught the mother Squirrel as she was running across the open field and bit her so severely that she died as did the young in consequence. Shortly after that the *Thalassidroma* reoccupied the hole and presumably reared her brood there, for I saw her entering or leaving it daily for several weeks. I do not think she had laid when first visited by the Squirrel for no trace of eggs was then to be found in it. Only one Red Squirrel was noted anywhere near the Farm. He ranged up and down the trees for its custom length but did not even approach any of our buildings. There were perhaps others of his kind in the Ball's Hill region but if so I failed to see or hear any of them during my infrequent visits to it.

Red Squirrels

Chipmunks, well almost, if not quite, exterminated by cats... Every year about the Farm last year, and in 1913, by Cats which were repeatedly seen carrying them off to neighboring farm houses. They reappeared this Spring, however, in something like their normal numbers, doubtless because of the well-nigh total absence of Cats, most of which have been killed of late by those of our neighbors who owned them, especially the Hovess who used to keep a dozen or more and now have none. The Lawrence's, also, have reduced their formerly superabundant stock to one or two, apparently. Freed from dread of this, their most unrelenting foe, the *Chipmunks* again took possession of their favorite old-time haunts close about our building. One lived in a hole by our front door step, another beside the well, a third near the Bungalows, still others in stone walls along our lawn & elsewhere. These new comers have committed no obvious depredations as yet, even on our beds of tulips & crocus bulbs which they were wont to devastate most thoroughly & despairingly several years ago. Whether or not they continue to display similar forbearance I am truly glad to have them back again because of their attractive appearance and charming, confiding ways.

Chipmunks

Concord, Mass.

1915.

April, May
&
June
(N.S.)

Of Cotton-Tail Rabbits we have had comparatively few within recent years. This Spring I saw three & none then for several years past, usually in the Berry Pasture or in back corners near the cow pasture. In May a young one, scarcely bigger than a Red Squirrel, frequented our lawn and often appeared at evening on the lawn in front of our house where it frolicked about most charmingly, often running swiftly in narrow circles and sometimes leaping abruptly straight upward to an astonishing height.

I fear it perished when the dairy and clover were sprayed in early June for after that it was not seen again among the more poisonous laden leeks beneath their shade.

Cotton-Tail
Rabbits

Concord woods generally, as well as those lying along the roads leading from that town towards Cambridge were less troubled by Gypsy and Brown-Tail caterpillars than for six or eight years past and almost nowhere seriously devastated. They would have been, however, close about our farm (especially in the Run) and also on Ball's Hill had we not sprayed heavily and thoroughly there for there were large and flourishing colonies of Gypsy larvae hatched in both localities. The growth of these pests was much retarded by the exceptionally cold weather and the poisoned foliage caused the death of most of them. Brown-Tails were comparatively scarce except at Ball's Hill and Tent Caterpillars much less numerous than last year. Practically all the latter perished of "wilt" when about half grown. I afterwards saw only one fully mature one. Forest Tent Caterpillars appeared in moderate numbers & did some damage. I failed to note that the "wilt" troubled them at all or the Gypsies overmuch but the latter must have suffered considerably from the Callosoma beetles which were numerous distributed every where. Towards the close of June the unsprayed woods showed traces of denuded foliage in many places and in a few localities were almost completely stripped on several acres in extent but for the most part remained clothed in luxuriant foliage.

Moth larvae

Fowled, Mass.

1915.

April, May
June
(No 6)

We began spraying on May 15 when our apple and other orchard trees were dealt with thoroughly. Various large oaks about the Farm were heavily sprayed on the 16th, shrubbery along wood lands there on the 20th, the Berry Pasture & portions of Black Field on the 21st, more wood-land edges on the 27th, part of the woods at Ball's Hill on the 28th & 29th, some of the elms near our home and the line of large oaks bordering Cedar Pond on the 31st. On June 2, 3, 4 & 5 the spraying at Ball's Hill was continued and completed (by Dixon.) all but a small one along its northern base being well poisoned. On June 24 we dealt with the remaining large elms at the Farm and with the borders of the land leading from Pine Pond to Benson's river landing. The oak knoll there and most of Ball's Hill were as badly infested as I have ever seen similar woodland anywhere & all the trees would surely have been stripped had they been left untreated.

Spraying
operations.

As far as I was able to ascertain our spraying operations this year had little if any effect on the birds. Certainly none of those daily watched at the Farm suffered obviously because of it. All, indeed, continued to occupy their accustomed haunts after it was finished - even the single pair of Orioles although the elm by the wood shed in which they had bespoken their nest was thoroughly poisoned. I noticed, however, that they, with other birds breeding close about the house, sought food for themselves and young elsewhere after the trees had been sprayed there. The Orioles regularly took long, straight-away flights to obtain it. The Robins, Wrens, Chipping & Yellow Warblers were less given to doing so.

Effect of
spraying on
bird life.

Following list includes all the species which it was able to record during this season. Unless otherwise stated the records relate to birds seen or heard by me personally, in the fields, orchards and woodland at the Farm.

Recorded, 1915.

Spring
Bird List

1915.

- April, May 1. Wood Thrush. A ♂ in full song, 5-6 a.m., in the Run. I did not
June. hear him again nor was he heard until I returned to, in so near as
11-71 on any other occasion.
2. Wilson's Thrush. Single birds seen or heard calling at 4 a.m. on May 15,
16, 25 & 26. One found dead on grass near our poultry yard near fence
on 18th. Another singing faintly in Run on 22nd. For the first time
in my experience none remained to breed anywhere in their accustomed
haunts within ear-shot of our farm house although I did hear one
calling near Boarst Spring on June 24. They were decidedly absent from
Davis and Pine Point Swamps but two males were singing in Bath's Hill
Swamp, and another bird calling near Van Cabin, on June 22. I thought
I heard the song of one coming from beyond our Barry Pasture on the
evening of the 11th but was not sure of it.
3. Bicknell's Thrush. Two - both very small birds - seen near Concord Village
on May 20 by S. O. Dexter.
4. Swainson's Thrush. One calling in Birch Field on May 10, another in
Cedar Park on the 21st, a third ^{seen} in the Run on the 25th.
Also noted at Fairland on the 20th - By S. O. Dexter.
5. Hermit Thrush. No north-bound migrants met with. Our local breeding
pair occupied their accustomed haunts in Birch Field where I found
them oftenest in or very near a deep hollow filled with young firs, larches
and black spruces. I first saw one of them on April 14 in neighboring
woods of large firs. The ♂ was in full song 6-6.30 P.M. on the 19th and
21st but I did not hear him again that month or so much as over
during May. Both birds were seen together repeatedly in April & May when
they would come close about me, chucking and whining as if anxious
regarding eggs or young. The male resumed singing on June 22 &

Concord, Mass.

Spring
Birds

1915.

April, May
June.

(No 8)

(Hermit Thrush) Continued it on an 24th & 25th. This year seemed earlier and better than it was last year. After seeing him & his mate together on May 23 I went direct to the Ball's Hill region and heard there what was doubtless another male, singing freely on Blackstone Ridge where it borders on the river meadows. Dexter reports the species breeding commonly about Foxhollow Bay this year. I did not have opportunity to seek for it in the woods along the old Bigelow Road where several pairs occurred a few years ago in June.

6. Robin.

Lexington, Mass.

1916

Evening
Grosbeaks

January 6.

Brilliantly clear with fresh, cool westerly wind. Ground covered to depth of 4 or 5 inches with ice-crested snow, melting rather freely in sheltered & sunny places, for the day was not really cold.

Went to Lexington this morning with Walter Deane to see some Evening Grosbeaks. They were first noticed there on January 3 by Dr. W. M. Tyler who informed me of the fact by telephone that evening and requested me to announce it at the Nottball Club meeting. Five birds were seen together on this occasion. Only three could be found next morning when Dr. Tyler and Mr. Walter Faxon visited the place together, not to remain there long, however, for that day was bitterly cold and very windy. Walter Deane went with Dr. Tyler yesterday, when the temperature was comfortably mild but the sky overcast, with light rain falling. After waiting for a considerable length of time they saw nine Grosbeaks alight in a Norway Elder where they were watched at close range for half an hour. They were eating the winged seeds of ~~the~~ with which ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} seeds were well laden. Walter made careful observations as to just how they dealt with them and has it all written out in his journal. He told me about it during a telephone talk we had last evening when I agreed to go with him to Lexington this morning, in the hope that the Grosbeaks might favor me, also, as they had him, ~~with an opportunity of seeing them near at hand.~~ If the much larger flock was frequenting the village of Scamister a few years ago most of our local ornithologists journeyed thither to see the birds, among which were several old males. I declined to go with the rest because hopeful of some day achieving the same result without similar guidance. The nearest I have since come to it was when I suddenly heard the flight call of a Heermann's at Belmont two years ago. When it seemed best not to let the present chance pass.

Lexington, Mass

1916

January 6
(No 2)

Walter and I left home at 8.30 this morning and went to Lexington by trolley cars. Leaving the car near Monroe Station we took a street that leads to the left up a steep hill side dotted rather sparsely, but nowhere thickly, with suburban houses of well-to-do people, surrounded by ornamental grounds planted with ^{cultivated} trees and shrubs. There were also very many red cedars and pitch pines which had been left standing when they must have been found when the hill-side was first settled, for they are much older than any of the houses. These primitive growths increased in frequency and extent as we climbed upward until over the crest of the ridge they dominated the landscape although even here it was not devoid of dwelling houses scattered about and half hidden among craggy trees, with every now and then a stretch of open pasture or mowing field.

My first
view of
living
English
Grosbeaks

Lexington, Mass.

1916

January 6
(no 3)

Almost on the hill-top, yet sufficiently beneath
its eastern brow to be sheltered by this and by a neighboring
cedar grove from the full force of westerly winds, stands,
within twenty feet of the street and no further from a house,
the Box Elder which the Grosbeaks have been frequenting.
They were not there when we reached it but Miss Tyler,
who had preceded us, thought she had seen them on
wing only a few minutes before. Her brother joined us
shortly as did also several of her lady friends and neighbors,
all of whom carried opera glasses and seemed more
or less keen to make use of them. After we had
stood or rambled about for perhaps half an hour without
sighting anything of interest Dr. Tyler suddenly exclaimed
"There they are"! An instant later I saw all the
members of the flock, now eleven in number, flying
across an open field to an isolated, leafless tree

Longington, Mass.

1916.

January 6
(No 4)

where they alighted. Remaining there only a few moments they next flew down to some bushes growing close about the rear of a house and began feeding on the deep red fruit. Here I approached them closely and watched them for several minutes but not to good advantage, for the sun was directly in my eyes, shining from beyond them. Before my position could be changed for a better one a man suddenly emerged from the back door of the house and the Grosbeaks, evidently startled by his appearance, flew off out of sight in an easterly direction. Nothing more was seen or heard of them until almost an hour later when (shortly after 11 a.m.) they reappeared among some tall and crowded cedars just across the road from the Bay bluffs into which they presently flew, one after another, and began feasting on its partly denuded yet still abundant fruit. Scarcely had all

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6
(No 5)

reached it when excited outcry arose among them
and more than half the flock dashed off through the
cedars to be quickly followed by the rest. Just as the first
lot were disappearing I caught sight of a rather large
Hawk, perhaps a Cooper's, whose line of swift, gliding
flight (on set wings) seemed to diverge slightly from,
rather than to follow, theirs. He was visible only for
an instant, while crossing a narrow opening in the densely
crowded trees. Although he evidently gave the Grosbeaks
a good fright they soon recovered from it and returned
to the Bay Elder where, during the next half hour,
I had them constantly under my glass, ^{within twenty feet or less} and watched
them to the best possible advantage as regarded light,
backgrounds etc., especially when, as not infrequently
happened, several of them descended to the ground and
hopped about over its snow-covered surface. At length

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6

(No 6)

They began leaving the box eldes, one or two at a time, and ~~fled~~ down the hillside, keeping low among the dense cedar grovles that clothed it and scattering widely throughout ~~the~~. Feeling assured that they had finished their noon meal and were unlikely to reappear soon we sought ours by returning to Cambridge. While we were on the hill-top several birds of other species were seen, including two hen Pheasants, stalking gracefully over the snow beneath red cedars & very near at hand; two Jays, also in these cedars; an adult ♂ Purple Finch, in the box eldes, one or two Chickadees; a few House Sparrows; and the rather large Hawk already mentioned.

Thus after so many years of half-expectant waiting for a sight of living Evening Grosbeaks in New England has such hope finally been fulfilled.

Its realization has proved in some respects disappointing

Longington, Mass.

1916.

January 6

(No 7)

chiefly, perhaps, because the flock included no male bird, .
also because its eleven female members looked at times not unlike House
Sparrows & uttered similar calls. For the most part, ^{however, they seemed} very admirable to

behold, especially when viewed near at hand in lights that
fully revealed not only their gracefully rounded outlines but
also all the more subdued tints and silky sheen of their
trim plumage. Some with decidedly blackish heads were
presumably adult. Others had the sides of their necks just above
the shoulders of the folded wings rather strongly yellowish.

All showed dusky malar stripes and more or less
conspicuous white markings on otherwise black or blackish

wings and tails. Nevertheless, the general effect of their mostly
grayish or pale olivaceous
coloring tended to make them inconspicuous at all distances

beyond thirty or forty yards and when they were in the
box elder it harmonized so well with that of the blackish
clusters of winged seed vessels that it served very obviously
to "obliterate" them. Nor were they especially noticeable among

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6 The olive green foliage of the cedars. Even when perched
(hs 8)

in leafless tree tops they seemed no more likely to attract one's
(At such times, indeed, they might easily have been mistaken for the former species.
note than so many House Sparrows or Cedar Birds. When thus

perched they remained for the most part inert, much
after the manner of Waxwings but clustering less thickly.

When feeding they habitually scattered all over the tree or
shrub, each bird working quite independently of the rest
and, as a rule, in perfect silence although every now
and then this might be broken by individual or general
utterance of vocal notes mostly two subdued to be audible
more than a few rods away and singularly diversified
in character yet not sufficiently unlike those of other and
commoner New England birds to impress one as very novel.
Some closely resembled the ordinary husky call of the
Purple, others the low chattering of House Sparrows, while
a single rather loud, staccato note was very like that of Passer.

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6
(No 9)

and a whistled peep almost indistinguishable from that of the Pine Grosbeak. There were also various twittering, screeching and even scolding utterances, emitted so very faintly that one had to listen intently to catch them ~~out~~ all, even when coming from very near at hand. Sometimes most if not all the members of the flock would employ their voices, for half a minute or more at a time, in giving utterances to one or another of the sounds above described, thereby producing a confused medley apparently no less significant of social bird gossip than that to be heard so often from Redpolls, Goldfinches, Sandpeeps and various other gregarious birds whenever they assemble numerously.

Only when obviously apprehensive or startled - as by the appearance of the Hawk - did the Grosbeaks utter any calls that could be heard for a way. On such occasions they made use chiefly of the whistled peep.

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6 I did not once hear them make any sound during flight.
(10)

This they performed in loose order, sometimes well abreast, but oftener one following the other ~~at~~ intervals so wide apart that the string-out flock was not less than thirty or forty feet in length. Otherwise they flew not unlike Pine Grosbeaks, with well marked but not exceptionally deep undulations, and I noticed that they were given to descending abruptly from the upper air in much ^{meteoric} ~~the same~~ fashion, on half closed wings.

As has been said the Evening Grosbeaks ~~observed~~ to-day impressed me as exceptionally inconspicuous birds, partly by reason of their subdued coloring and habit of silence, also because of their comparative inactivity. Even when most busily engaged in feeding they displayed ~~some~~ more animation than so many Cedar birds ^{of} which, moreover, they constantly reminded me by their erect, graceful poses

Lexington, Mass.

1916.

January 6
(11)

and gentle dignity of bearing. In respect to their almost unvarying erectness of posture they seemed very unlike Pine Grosbeaks but had essentially the same methods of dealing with the winged seeds on which they were feeding. These were first plucked off and shown of their wings, then extracted from their sheaths and swallowed, the whole being accomplished most deftly and swiftly, within the space of no more than a few seconds. The discarded seed cases and wings strewn the snow thickly together beneath the ^{elder} ~~box~~ and another ^{the} of the same kind, which, previously, had been completely stuffed. Just how the Linnaea berries were dealt with we could not certainly make out.

Although these Grosbeaks seemed wholly undisturbed by our presence, movements, voices etc. at all distances extending ten or fifteen paces, they would not tolerate much closer approach, ~~than this~~. Invariably when I attempted it they first raised their crests and uttered cries of alarm, then flew off into neighboring trees. Never they were less confident than our insect Pine Grosbeaks.

Cambridge, Mass.

1916.

January 8

Clear and cold with fresh northerly wind.

Evening
Grosbeaks.

Lowell Thompson, an intelligent boy about twelve years of age and the son of one of our neighbors, called this noon to tell me that he had seen three female Evening Grosbeaks yesterday in white pines growing in Manning Emory's grounds at corner of Brattle and Lowell Streets. He had a good view of them, within twenty feet, and seems to have noted all their characteristic markings accurately.

Seen at
corner of
Brattle &
Lowell Sts

After looking over my slide of Hesperiphona we had returned to my study and were approaching its one eastern-facing window when I first heard a faint peep call and then saw three female Evening Grosbeaks, followed closely by a handsome male, fly low and swiftly across the garden from the direction of our house towards Brewster Street. As they passed within twenty feet of the windows, in bright sunlight, I had an unobscured if only momentary

Flown in
our Garden.

Cambridge, Mass

1916

January 8

(No 2)

views of them and hence feel reasonably sure of the correctness of the identification. Their white wing and tail markings showed conspicuously as did also the rich scal brown coloring of the male bird, while several House Sparrows that accompanied, or rather trailed after, them furnished a good basis for soon comparison. Young Thompson, being unfortunately behind me, had only the merest glimpse of them.

Mrs. Cook of Lexington telephoned this evening to say that the box elder there was visited both yesterday and to-day by a flock of Grosbeaks evidently not the same individuals as those frequenting it heretofore for on both these later occasions there were seven birds of which two were males and five females while the latter we all duller and grayer colored than any previously observed.

Evening
Grosbeaks
in our
Garden.

At
Lexington

Beyington, Mass.

1916.

Evening

January 24 Cloudless, almost windless and very mild for midwinter Grosbeaks.
The temperature rising from 30° at sunrise to 42° at noon.

Visited (for third time) the hilltop haunts of the Evening Grosbeaks in Beyington. Arriving there about 10.30 a.m., I found seven birds (2 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀) feeding in flowering apple tree having fruit at least three times the size of ours but otherwise similar. This they dealt with as Pine Grosbeaks & Purple Finches deal with the fruit of our tree, i.e. eating the seeds & discarding their pulpy covering. They soon flew off through down cedars beneath one of which Dr. Tyler & I afterwards watched them for at least 20 minutes hopping about on the bare ground and eating something, that we could not certainly make out but we thought it might be the birch seed cones that were scattered about rather profusely there. Tyler saw the birds scatter over on twice, only with a Fox Sparrow, he said. They were quite mute for the most part but occasionally uttered faint, low-pitched, chattering notes not unlike those of Sopie leucophaea and also suggesting the "cheep-tee" call ascribed to the Evening Grosbeak by Chapman (Hornbold Bird E. N. A. p. 280). We heard them utter no sounds other than these to-day. After remaining on the ground as long as they desired they flew back to the apple tree and spent afterwards of half an hour in eating up its fruit in their massive bills. Here, as on the ground, I viewed them to excellent advantage, at close range & in clear sunlight. The two males were certainly very handsome birds, apparently fully adult, with much yellow & comparatively little steel brown about the head. Nevertheless they, like all the rest I have seen, seemed somewhat disapproving—perhaps because so silent & inert.

Concord, Mass.

1916.
April 4
to
July 9

Spring
My customary ^{visit} to Concord began this year on
April 4 and terminated on July 9. Living altogether at the farm
I spent most of my time in its immediate neighborhood
 seldom going beyond Birch Field and even less often to Ball's Hill
 while no use whatever was made of boats or canoes kept at
 the latter place. Being, as usual, almost constantly out of doors
 I was able to keep a rather close watch on the seasonal movements
 of the birds and to make some interesting field observations
 relating to certain species. Brief entries made from day to
 day in diary and note books furnish the basis for the fuller &
 more detailed statements about to be written.

We motored to Concord on April 4 on deeply rutted roads
 and in dreaching rain which half-obscured a water-soaked and
 dreary-looking landscape. But when the sun rose clear next
 morning it shone on snow-drops and purple Cadeis, ^{delights}
 blooming close about the old farm house and ^{on} fields everywhere

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

to

July 9

free from snow on which large and small brown Butterflies were seen on being later in the day. But our woodland wore a more wintry aspect; for there - especially under pines - the ground was still covered to a depth of a foot or more in many places with snow that had fallen weeks, if not months ^{before}. Wood Frogs were already in full cry in the pond hole below the orchard while practically all the birds to be expected at such a date had re-occupied their accustomed haunts and were filling the air with that tender, plaintive, rather subdued music so characteristic of early spring in Massachusetts and so very delightful to listen to anywhere. No less grateful to my ears was the thrilling outcry of Red-shouldered Hawks, coming every now and then from birds soaring high over fields or woods.

After this the on-coming of spring progressed more steadily, if also slowly, than usual being neither checked nor accelerated abruptly by alternating, unseasonable extremes

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4
6

July 9

of cold and heat, as so often happens in Massachusetts.

There were, however, snow storms that covered the ground to a depth of an inch or two on April 9, 14, ^{and 28} and rather hard frosts as late as the 11th; while the average temperature throughout both April & May must have been considerably below normal. The retarding influence of these conditions was evidently not offset by the favoring effects of much brilliant sunshine and frequent copious rains, at least as regards vegetation which advanced only very tardily and continued a week or more backward up to at least the middle of June, although botanists & horticulturists are given to asserting that it invariably attains about the same stage of development by the 1st of that month, whatever may have been its condition at earlier dates that year.

Most flowering plants retained their blossoms ^{considerably} longer than usual. As late as May 16 all our cherry trees, many peach trees and a few plum trees were still in full bloom,

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

5

July 9

together with a few early apple trees - a most unusual thing to witness. During the next day the apple orchards generally became pink and white with crowded blossoms although these did not all open until somewhat later. We did not spray them until the 27th when most of the petals had fallen. Spraying of forest trees began with us on June 1 although scarce any of them were then in full leaf. It was so constantly interrupted or delayed by heavy rains that it was not finished until June 21. There were almost no Brown-Tails to contend with this year and comparatively few Forest or Common Loat caterpillars, but those of the Gypsy moth swarmed by millions throughout most of our deciduous woods, stripping countless trees including some that had been carefully sprayed - for even the best mixture of lead could not retain much effectiveness when so often exposed to drenching rains immediately after being applied to the foliage.

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

to
July 9

Bird migration was less hampered or delayed than might have been expected, by the exceptional conditions which so retarded vegetation through April and May. It is true that there were no really heavy flights of north-bound migrants in April and only two such in May - one on the 2nd and 20th, the latter being a typical "howler day".

This, however, is what commonly happens during Springs unaccompanied by extreme variations of temperature, when birds migrating northward may come and go from day to day without attracting much attention, because never numerously assembled at any one time or place. They seldom appear anywhere in excessive numbers except when their advance is abruptly checked by sudden cold or unduly hastened by correspondingly unseasonable heat. Then they may literally flood our New England woods & fields for a day or two before and after which few if any

1916

April 4

July 9

of the same species will be seen. Nothing of that kind transpired this Spring, even the movements of May 2 & 20 being in no wise exceptional. Some species arrived later than usual - especially in April - but most appeared at about their customary date and a few - including the Bobolink - somewhat earlier than common. Migrants bound further north were at no time very numerous represented but almost constantly passing on their way, singly or in small flocks. They included nearly all the species ordinarily seen, besides the Orange-crowned Warbler and the Evening Grosbeak, neither of which has ever before been met with by me in Spring anywhere in Massachusetts. Tennessee Warblers were so exceptionally common as to be noted oftener than the Black-polls - which, however, were fewer than usual. ^{Tennessee} They appeared almost daily from May 20 to 27, in trees close about our house, where as many as four or five might sometimes be heard singing at one time.

Concord, Mass.

1916.
April 4
to
July 9.

For the most part our local-breeding birds reoccupied their accustomed summer haunts in normal numbers and variety, but several species, including the Yellow Warbler, Redstart, Yellow-throated Vireo and Baltimore Oriole, failed, for the first time since I have owned Octopus Farm, to nest within its boundaries although appearing there more or less often in May and June. We did not lack the usual pair of Phoebe in the barn cellar and of Crested Flycatcher in the old apple orchard where the latter birds reared a brood of young successfully, as they nearly always do, in the dilapidated section of hollow trunk first prepared for their occupancy ten or a dozen years ago.

Our deciduous woods, being now more or less completely denuded of their foliage by Gypsy Moth & Forest Tent Caterpillar in June & July, no longer harbor many summer birds of any kind.

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

to

July 9

Of those which formerly tenanted such woodland regularly and not uncommonly the Wood Thrush, the Golden-winged Warbler, and the Yellow-throated Vireo have wholly, and the Rose breasted Grosbeak and House Wren almost, ceased to reappear but there are still Downy birds in plenty, a fair number of Red-eyed Vireos and a few Scarlet Tanagers.

Pine-frequenting birds, such as the Black-burnian, Black-throated Green and Pine Warbler and the Solitary Vireo, have not been similarly banished but continue to be as numerous, represented as of yore, for the dense evergreen foliage of these favorite trees is too unpalatable to forest cataplexis of every kind to be much injured by any of these pests.

Inasmuch as the river meadows were almost continuously, and for the most part deeply, submerged throughout April May and June they offered little congenial food and even less shelter to the birds which ordinarily inhabit them.

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

June 6
July 9

in summer. A few Swamp Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds and Bitterns remained and doubtless breed in grassy or brushy places lying just out of reach of the river flood water, but most of these birds moved to back meadows not far away where, perhaps, they had seldom, if ever, been known to thus settle before. So also did practically all the Rails and Marsh Wrens although Mr. S. O. Dyer heard a Sora singing at the edge of Concord River, near where the Assabet unites with it, on the evening of July 3. On May 30 he, with Dr. Lyden & Walter Faxon, visited an extensive back meadow, lying just to the eastward of Lexington Park, in which Marsh Wrens of both species together with Soras were then breeding rather numerous and Virginia Rails at least sparingly.

Because, no doubt, of their banishment from river marshes the Red-wings visited our cultivated lands much oftener than in their wont which not infrequently we heard a Bittern jumping at no great distance, perhaps in some low-lying part of Horns or Lawrence's mowing fields.

Concord, Mass.

1916
April 4
to
July 9

The Concord Tree Swallows probably suffered rather severely from the snow storm of April 28 for after it they were decidedly less numerously represented than before and only three pairs nested about our premises, in boxes that ordinarily shelter at least twice as many.

Starlings are said to have bred very commonly in and about Concord village this season, especially in old apple orchards. That at Webster Farm certainly failed to attract any of them but Mr. Howe reported two pairs seen entering holes in the large trees that shade his house and Mrs. Abbott Lawrence the finding, in one of her hollow apple trees, of a nest with eggs which were permitted to hatch although I counseled their destruction. From them, without much doubt, came the brood of loud-clawing young that appeared later, with one of the parent birds, in trees overhanging the roadside in front of our farm house.

Concord, Mass.

1916.

April 4
to
July 9

Wood Frogs, as has been noted, were croaking freely on April 5 - but I did not hear the voice of the first Hyla until the 11th or that of a Garden Toad before the 29th - an exceptionally late date for the last-named species to begin its musical tidings. Last spring and this there were comparatively few Hylas keeping in our neighborhood - none, indeed, enough to unite their high-pitched voices in the ringing choruses that used to rise at evening from every swampy hollow, well nigh obliterating all other sounds. Nor did I hear more than an occasional Bull Frog this year, during my infrequent visits to the river near Ball's Hill & elsewhere, ~~which~~ I cannot remember hearing a single Leopard Frog or Pickerel Frog. Green Frogs and Tree Toads were no less common and voracious than usual, in the neighborhood of our farm house, at the height of their spawning season. When several pairs of the latter species frequented a small artificial pond close to the old well directly in front of the house

Concord, Mass.

1916

April 4

July 9

X
Gray
Squirrels.

Gray Squirrels were less numerous than usual early in the season and towards its close they disappeared for the most part, having reared, I think, comparatively few young. Several that frequented the immediate neighborhood of our farm house devoted themselves rather constantly in May and early June to what looked suspiciously like a systematic quest for birds' nests, especially in orchard trees. That the Robins as regarded it could not be doubted for they were frequently seen chasing the Squirrels through the orchard, with excited clamor, which has not often happened in former years.

Moreover very many of their nests, together with those of other birds, were despoiled of eggs or young about this time.

Although I suspect that many if not most of these depredations must have been committed by Gray Squirrels the only positive proof of such guilt on their part

Concord, Mass.

1916.

April 4
to
July 9

is furnished by the testimony of my foreman, Maxwell C. Norbanks, who actually saw a Squirrel take several eggs from the nest of a Robin built on a rafter under the piazza roof of our Bungalow at the farm. He failed to notice that the Squirrel ate any of their contents but this probably happened for his wife afterwards examined the shells when they had been dropped on the piazza floor and found them almost wholly free from either yolk or albumen.

Gray
Squirrels
blunders
Robin's
nest.

There were only a very few Red Squirrels in our neighborhood Red
this Spring. I saw or heard one occasionally among the red pines Squirrels. near the Robin place and also in Pulpit Rock woods. They must have bred there or elsewhere with unusual success, however, for their young appeared numerously throughout our woodlands before the close of summer.

Chipmunks occurred in something like their old time abundance, especially in the immediate neighborhood of one house where

Beverly, Mass.

1916

April 4

to

July 9

Chippewakes

(Chippewakes) they might be seen at almost any hour of every sunny day, scampering along stone walls or sitting in graceful poses on the wall crenelings. This interesting restoration of almost, if not quite, their normal numbers has been accomplished within the past two years and is doubtless due to the fact that they have well-nigh ceased to be preyed on by Cats, — more destructive of all their enemies. Few of our neighbors now keep more than one or two Cats and these have learned to avoid our place because certain to be hotly pursued by "Jim", the little Irish Terrier, whenever he finds them prowling there.

The Chippewakes used to dig up and eat very many tulips & crocus bulbs but they no longer trouble us in this or indeed any other way. Nor did their abundant & familiar presence seem to disturb the birds this spring, even where they had eggs or young in nests sheltered by thickets through which the Chippewakes were frequently running to & fro.

1916.

1. Wood Thrush. A ♂ with rather thin weak voice singing in the Run near foot of Lane S-6 a.m. on May 8. I heard one at the same hour, in the same place, on May 9 of last year. In both instances the bird was not again noted & hence must have gone elsewhere to pass the summer. Mr. Dexter reports hearing the song of a Wood Thrush near his house in Concord village on May 19 of this year. We know of no other instance of local occurrence.
2. Wilson's Thrush. One calling in one Run on evening of May 13, another singing faintly in Berry Pasture on that of May 24. First full song heard in latter locality on that of 26th. During the month of June I heard the males constantly in both localities, often two answering each other in the posture, once (on the evening of June 17) three in full song, one far apart, in the Run above & below Pulpit Rock. There were apparently not more than two breeding pairs in Balls Hill Swamp, one in Davis Swamp & one in Pine Point Swamp.
3. Scarlet-sided Thrush. Noted only once - in one Run, on May 20 where a bird was heard calling at 11 a.m.
4. Hermit Thrush. These silent birds, presumably north-bound migrants, together among dense young firs near Pulpit Rock, on April 15. A male singing there on June 2, in Birch Field on June 6 & 7, in a knoll by the river just north of Davis Hill, on the 29th. Elsewhere in Concord the species seems to have been more numerous & generally distributed during this breeding season than was before within my experience. In the scrubby, oft-burned - one woodland

1916

(Hermit Thrush) lying between Fairyland and Walden Ponds, Mr. Dexter heard no less than four different males in full song on April 24. He noted them repeatedly there later in the season & others were reported to him as settled about Fairhaven Bay. On May 28 I heard two males along the Bigelow Road, one near Hutchinson Pond on north-west slope of Parvatesse Hill, the other near the big "Beach" Oak.

The bird frequenting our woods in June was a fair singer better by far than any heard there in former years.

Apparently he had no mate which perhaps accounts for his drifting so from place to place during the singing season.

5. Robin. Throughout much of the township of Concord and especially in and about the village, Robins seemed decidedly more abundant this year than last, after settling to breed, according to Mr. Dexter's observation. In and close about the farm their numbers were not apparently much increased although scattered pairs occurred here and there in remote parts of our dense woodlands where I have seldom or never noted them at such a season before. At least five or perhaps as many as seven or eight pairs nested within the limits of our cultivated grounds, mostly in apple trees, although one nest was begun and deserted when half-finished, in our wood shed and another completed and laid ⁱⁿ under the eave of the front piazza at the Burgalows where a brood of young were hatched and reared last year. They farred less well the present season for on June 9 a large Gray Squirrel destroyed all the eggs and then tore out the lining of the nest. This Burdett claims to have actually witnessed. He thinks that the eggs were merely thrown down on the floor of the piazza but his wife, who was

1916.

19

(Robin) not present at the time but examined them shortly afterwards, asserts that the shells were almost free from yeast or adherens and evidently had been swallowed. A similar fate attended almost all the notes buried in orchard trees early in the season and was almost certainly due to the same agency for whenever a Gray Squirrel (we had no Red ones this year) appeared there, as happened very frequently, he was sure to be mobbed and fallowed about by several excited, clamorous Robins. Together with other obviously apprehensive small birds. There was in it is true another suspicious character similarly attracted whenever he moved abroad, viz. a gray Screech Owl who spent his days in our old barn. To what extent he may or may not have molested the Robins by night I cannot say but the first flight he took in the coming twilight invariably occasioned wide-spread alarm and confusion among all our local - nesting birds. So, also, did those of his mate, a red Owl, of whose presence with young in a hollow oak close behind the barn I first learned on May 26 when about 9.30 a.m., with the sun shining bright in cloudless sky, she flew past me to the hole carrying in her bill a small, flesh-colored object that looked suspiciously like an unfluffed young Robin and may well have been one taken from a nest with the living tern one that I noticed afterwards in an apple tree where the Owl seemed to have come when first sighted. What with the presumption molestation of Owls and Squirrels, together with that of Crows & Jays, who made frequent stealthy visits to the orchard & shade trees in early morning hours, our farm - nesting Robins had an exceptionally anxious & trying experience during the earlier part of the season and in my certain knowledge failed to get any young on wing until June 18. After that several broods appeared

1916.

(Robin) and old birds brooding eggs or young in the nest were no longer often disturbed in any way all the Oaks and nearly all the Squirrels having them disappared. As far as I was able to judge by less close observation the woodland-frequenting Robins reared not young whatever, yet continued to the last in their Crow-and-jay-infested haunts where practically all their eggs were doubtless destroyed almost as soon as laid.

On April 30 an immature ♀ Robin, in exceptionally pale, faded plumage, began fluttering long and persistently at one or another of four windows at the rear of our farm house, on its ground floor. She continued this practice almost daily, sometimes for two or three hours at a time, up to May 19 after which it was not again observed. Sometimes she came in the early morning, sometimes in late afternoon, not infrequently at mid-day hours. Always her behavior was essentially the same. First alighting on the low-sweeping branch of a near-by apple tree she would fly to the window and cling to its bottom sash or to one of the narrow wooden strips that held in place its small, old-fashioned panes and then would peck at the glass and beat against it with her wings for several minutes at a time, never hard enough to cause any visible physical injury beyond the loss of a few breast feathers yet so vigorously and ceaselessly as to become obviously exhausted towards the close of each period of attack, after which she would rest awhile, with wide open bill & drooping wings, on a perch in the apple tree, before undertaking another of these futile sallies. It seemed possible at first that, having just abandoned a half-finished nest in our wood shed, she might be trying to enter one of the lower back rooms with some thought of building there; but whenever the windows at which she had

1916.

(Robin) been beating was opened she invariably removed to another and similarly lost interest in it if it was covered by a cloth outside or by closing the blinds. This led me to infer that she must be attracted by something in the small glass panes which, because of their complete isolation from sunlight, reflected very perfectly, at all hours of the day, the neighboring trees and shrubbery to which they gave outlook. Another possibility - to my mind less probable - is that she may have been attracted by her own image, reflected in the glass, perhaps mistaking it for that of another bird. Be this as it may she apparently roosted about these sorts of her breeding season by her fatuous assaults on the window panes for it was not until they finally ceased that she laid her first clutch of eggs - in a nest long known in the very apple tree where she had been accustomed to fly against the glass. During this continuation she seemed to have only one other regular occupation - viz that of running about over the lawn inside her mate in quest of angle worms for food.

A ♂ Robin frequenting the grove at the base of our old barn regularly interpolated in his song, at frequent intervals a note resembling so closely the second & higher-pitched one in the song of Vireo flavifrons that I could not doubt it had been borrowed or copied from those powers.

The Robin singing about our fence house seemed to me less fervent and general than usual, this year. Even at daybreak and in the evening twilight I rarely heard more than two or three males at any one time and sometimes they remained mostly silent at all hours, for days in succession.

1916.

6. Cat bird: - Never before has I known so many Cat birds to breed within sight and sound of our farm house. There appeared together in front of it on May 5 and by the end of the month we had two pairs nesting in the shrubbery behind it, a third in that near the old cemetery yard, a fourth in that just south of the cow pasture, a fifth at the kitchen place and at least two more in the Berry Pasture across the public road. The birds last mentioned were probably harried by jays & apparently raised no young but those near the house were but little disturbed and were feeding young either in or just out of the nests before the close of June. One nest was built in a snow-berry bush directly under & within a yard of, the painting window. The ♂ of this pair had a singularly unmusical song consisting wholly of disconnected rasping and stuttering notes very trying to my ears although perhaps not similarly displeasing to those of his mate. Although this nest was begun on May 18 the young had not left it by June 27.

One of the three birds that arrived on May 5 was frequently employed during that day and the next in picking up nesting materials and carrying it into the house, then thither when, however, she dropped at least most of it. While thus engaged she (for the bird was evidently a ♀) was closely followed by the other two, both of which looked like males. They kept flapping out their tails & quivering their half opened wings, at the same time uttering subdued, wheezy sounds but no musical notes. Although apparently rival suitors of the female bird they did not once display the least animosity towards each other.

No Cat bird in our neighborhood was heard to mimic the note of any other species of bird this year.

1916.

7. Brown Thrasher. A male singing in our neighborhood from May 2 to June 7, usually near the foot of the lane in Cedar Park, sometimes at the rear of the old barn, up to the close of May. I wish before that, what was presumably the self-same bird was heard at the Ritchie place and once he sang in Horvick's pasture across the road from there, when I saw him last on June 15. Perhaps it was also the same individual that I heard in the Grass Field on June 6 & 7. The only other noted by one or another was a male singing near Dr. Charnoy's house at Concord on the latter date. Mrs. Dexter heard but one other this season - somewhere in Warden Woods.

8. Bluebird. Present in normal numbers throughout most of Concord Region. Only one pair bred in our neighborhood. Their first nest must have been somewhere beyond my ken. The second, begun on May 17, was in a box on a pole, about 15 ft. above the ground, well out in the field in front of our house. On May 28 I saw both birds flitting about or perched on it quietly at 8 A.M. but at 5 P.M. found the shells of four apparently fresh eggs lying close together on the ground directly beneath it while the smooth surface of the bark box pole was scored here and there all the way up to the box by claw marks so fine and near together that they must have been made by some mammal considerably smaller than a cat and perhaps by the Lesser Brown Weasel seen often of late in neighboring Stone Walls although it is possible that a Squirrel may have been the marauder. After losing this set of eggs the birds nested in a box on the poultry house when I saw two full fledged young looking out at the entrance hole on June 28.

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9. Ruby-Crowned Kinglet. Noted first on April 17, last on May 16. Five records made between these dates and eight birds met with in all, most of them males in full song and no more than one during any one day.
10. Golden-Crested Kinglet. Single birds, often alone but occasionally accompanied by Chickadees and once by a Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, were noted on April 7, 10, 17, 19 & 23. None heard singing. One uttered a monosyllabic screech exactly like that of a Brown Creeper for whose call, indeed, I mistook it until the bird was plainly seen.
11. Chickadee. There was almost no Chickadee to be found anywhere in our woods when I reached the Farm early in April. After that I located only a single breeding pair, who frequented Birch Field. There was also a male who sang almost daily through April and May in our farm orchard or in Cedar Park, but I never once found him accompanied by a mate and doubt if he had one. He was last heard in full song for several minutes - on July 7. In addition to these records I can give but one other - that of a male heard singing near the old Bigelow Road on May 28.
12. White-Breasted Nuthatch. Ever since the Baranet Farm came into my possession in 1898 it has, ^{hitherto} never failed to be frequented by a pair of breeding Nuthatches, ^{who nested} ~~was~~ sometimes in one of the big elms close to the house, sometimes in the apple orchard, occasionally in neighboring woodlands. This Spring I noted the species three only times, on April 20 when a ♂ visited the orchard & calls near the barn and on April 29 when a bird was seen in the same calls. I saw another in Concord Village on April 12.

13. Red-bellied Nuthatch. Only one record - that of a bird heard in
white pine woods near Pulpit Rock on June 29.
14. Brown Creeper. A male singing near Pulpit Rock on April 20.
In the same neighborhood another bird noted on the 29th & again on
the 30th. There were presumably rather good migrants but a Creeper
heard (scratching) at Holden's Hill on May 29 was almost certainly
breeding (no doubtless on one or another of the coniferous dead oaks
(killed by cyclone, cat-skinners) which now compose the greater part of
this one flourishing & attractive woods. I searched in vain for the
nest, however, under the big scales of loose bark clinging to almost
every tree along the Southern slope of the hill.
15. House Wren. This year, as last, we were favored by the presence
of these male House Wrens and by their incessant gushing music.
The first appeared on May 7 in front of the old farm house & was
soon joined there on the 10th by its mate. The pair nested in the same
place but by the birds that they occupied last year and were
seen feeding young in it from June 17 to 27. On the 28th the
young had left it and were scattered about in neighboring thickets.
Their mother, unlike the ♀ of last year, had no song notes. She
& her mate foraged fearlessly for spiders throughout every accessible
moss & crevice of our house & especially behind its front base boards.
Another ♂ sang on or about the same & stuck out the Bengalong
from June 4 to 13, after which he disappeared, probably because
unable to become a mate. The third male was always in the hands
from June 6 to the close of that month, whenever I visited
the kitchen place where he presumably had a mate & nest
although I did not actually note either. On June 6 I found a
Chipping's nest in a cedar in our lane, with a single egg pierced by a
small hole, yet unhatched. This looked like a Wren's work but

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(House Wren) if so probably represented an isolated case of such depredation for no other similarly damaged eggs were found and the Wrens flitted hither & thither about the place without exciting any of the alarm & resentment which they so constantly aroused among Robins, Chipping & other familiar nesting birds whenever they went a year ago.

16. Black and White Creeper. First noted April 30. No subsequent evidence of any considerable north-bound migration. Usual number of breeding birds distributed in widely-scattered pairs throughout woodland of every character bordering on our farming lands. On the evening of June 17 I saw a ♂ rise above the tree tops and sing on wing—a rare happening. His song flight was performed much like that of a Nashville Warbler and his flight song differed from that heard on ordinary occasions only by the addition of a few short preliminary notes not essentially very unlike the rest.

17. Nashville Warbler. Arrived May 3. Most numerously represented May 7-20 when as many as five or six birds, probably north-bound migrants mostly, might be seen daily, sometimes in blossoming apple trees & flowers along wood edges & in swampy corners. On May 28 I flushed a ♀ from her nest containing 5 typically marked, fresh-looking eggs. It was composed almost, if not quite, wholly of fine dry grasses which lined a shallow hollow in the face of an almost vertical bank upwards of a foot in height & fronting on a now disused wood road—the old Bigelow Road—where it leads through scanty growths of white pines & gray birches clothing dry, arid soil. As I was walking quietly along it the bird fluttered out along the ground, almost underfoot, and quickly disappeared amid the shrubbery where she afterwards kept out of sight. Two ♂♂ of her species were singing not far off. At least two & think there might be heard in our Farm woods any day early in June and one sang freely & vigorously in Birch Field up to the very close of that month. There was doubtless a nest there and another in or near our Berry Pasture although I failed to locate either of them.

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18. Orange-Crowned Warbler. My very first Spring record of the occurrence of this Warbler was made on May 13 when, about 6.30 a.m., I came upon a bird sunning itself in a leafless Thicket overrun with wild grape vines near our hill-side front yard. Thence it flew, presently, to a low-sweeping branch of a large hickory and began feeding the terminal, hooded buds in much the same deliberate, abstract manner as that so often characteristic of the Tennessee Warbler. It was very tame & sluggish, permitting close approach. From distances no greater than ten yards I watched it closely through my glass, in clear sunlight, for upwards of fifteen minutes, identifying it beyond all possibility of doubt. It was an exceptionally dull colored bird, probably a ♀, with dusky olivaceous upper parts and grayish under parts tinged only very slightly with yellowish. The top of head appeared uniform with the back in general coloring but its sides showed the definite & scarce rather all superficial stripes. The bird was quite alone and uttered no sound save an occasional faint piping Tidip sometimes abbreviated to Tdi.

19. Tennessee Warbler. Never before have I known this species occur so numerously during Spring migration in any part of eastern Mass. On the morning of May 20 there were two ♂♂ singing at once in the tops near our big elm while a third was noted in Concord village by Fayon & Robbins; on the 21st I heard one in an elm over our lane and another in white pine woods near Putnam Rock; on the 22nd there was one in the lane elms, on the 23rd one in the neighboring orchard; on the 26th there were at least four in full song at the Farm, two in trees close to the house and two in the thicket, while one or two heard elsewhere in our woodland may or may not have been additional birds & on this same day Mr. Dexter heard two others in Concord village; on the 27th there were again two near our house and one (noted by Prof. Norton) in Sleepy Hollow Country. To what extent the self-same birds may or may not have been recorded by me more than once at the Farm I cannot say but probably the total number of individual birds thus noted was somewhat in excess of the actual total. However that may have been it apparently equalled that of passing Black-polls of which I noted only eleven in all & no more than two in any one day.

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20. Usnea Warbler. Arrived May 2, last seen on the 27th. During the interim between these dates the species occurred commonly but not numerously no more than two or three different birds being ever observed in any one day. They sometimes visited blossoming apple trees in the orchard or the big elms in our dooryard but were noted oftener in mixed woods especially those along the Run.
21. Yellow Warbler. Heretofore we have always had at least one pair of Yellow Warblers and sometimes two, nesting in cultivated shrubbery close about the house. This year a ♂ was noted there on May 5, 6, 7, 8, 22 and 23 while another, with different type of song, was heard on May 27, June 1, 2, 6 & 7, but both were apparently unmated and merely wandering bachelor birds although one or the other may have had a spouse & nest in Mr. Horst's grounds where I heard the song of a male on May 28 & June 18. Another heard at T. Leno's Bridge on June 28 completes my Concord Region record for the present year.
22. Black-throated Blue Warbler. Of normally sparing occurrence during May migration when I noted a ♂ on the 13th, two ♂♂ on the 14th, one on the 19th, one on the 20th and a ♀ on the 21st. One of these birds was met with among red cedars near the front of our lane, all the others in the Run leading thence to Putnam's Rock. The males sang freely, at various times of day.
23. Green-winged Teal. First noted on April 30 when a single ♂ was seen. During May 2 there were not less than fifty birds, mostly males, scattered about in apple trees, oaks & hickories near our farm buildings. As they flitted hither & thither in small, loose flocks their low-pitched, trilling songs came pleasantly and almost ceaselessly from every direction. No more than a dozen remained over the next day and after that only a few stragglers were seen the last, a ♂ & 2 ♀♀, on May 21. A ♂ singing all day long near our house on the 6th had a peculiarly sweet, full & loud voice.

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24. Black & Yellow Warbler. North-bound migrants passing in normal numbers from May 12 to 27. Occurring singly for the most part and never more than three or four in any one locality they frequent thickets of cedars, young white pines, gray birches & mixed growths along the River, also appearing occasionally in more open places. I saw only one this spring in one blossoming apple tree to which they have sometimes resorted freely in former years.

25. Chestnut-sided Warbler. First noted on May 6. No obvious flight of migrants bound further north. By the middle of the month one local-breeding bird had re-accepted all their accustomed haunts. After that a ♀ was usually to be heard singing on the brushy slope below the barn, another near the foot of the ledge, two or three others across the road in the Berry Pasture. One of the latter birds remained in early June to the Forsythia thicket in front of our house & I think nested there. Four males were heard singing along a half mile of the old Bigelow Road on May 26 and two at Davis Hill on June 29. I noted none at Ball's Hill this year.

26. Bay-breasted Warbler. The spring flight of Bay-breasts was neither exceptionally heavy nor light this year. The first bird was met with in Fairyland by Tison & Robbins, on May 20. On the 26th I heard one singing near our house at sunrise and later in the day noted three ♂♂ & a ♀ near Pulpit Rock while another male was singing at noon near the head of the River. One was in the oaks behind our barn on the 27 and again on June 1 - the latest record for ten seasons.

27. Black-poll Warbler. Ever since (& including) the year 1914 there have been comparatively few Black-polls passing north or south through Concord in spring or autumn. This spring I noted, personally, only seven in all, a single ♂ on May 20, another on the 25th, a ♂ & ♀ on the 27th, a ♀ on June 1, two males on June 2. Mr. Dexter reports hearing in Concord village or in Fairyland, a ♂ on May 16, another on the 19th & two on the 26th.

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28. Blackburnian Warbler. A ♂ in elm close to our farm house on May 2 and another there on the 6th, were perhaps north-bound migrants. On May 7 and thereafter up to June 5 a ♂ was always to be heard whenever I visited Pulpit Rock woods singing in the pines there. On and after June 7 they hearded two ♂♂ whose regular singing stations were scarce one hundred yards apart. No doubt they had mates and nests in these old white pine woods where they have bred every season for many years past. I failed to notice any other birds of their kind this spring, either during migration time or later.

29. Black-throated Green Warbler. Arrived May 2. Apparently no more numerous represented at any time during the next two weeks than later in the season after all north-bound migrant warblers had passed. On May 28 I heard 5 ♂♂ singing along half a mile of the Bigelow road. There were 3 (the usual number) in Pulpit Rock woods & another in Cedar Park, through June. Near the river I noted fewer than usual - one at Holden's Hill and another at Ball's Hill on June 15, one at Pine Ridge (where there should have been four or five) on the 29th. One or another of the birds breeding in woodland near the farm occasionally visited the elms overlooking our dove yard - as has ever been their habit in May & June.

30. Pine Warbler. First noted on April 18. A male sang all day long in our blossoming apple orchard on the 20th and I saw another in an isolated apple tree at the Ritchie place on June 6. During the entire breeding season the species was represented locally by the usual number of birds, occupying their accustomed ancestral haunts. Near the farm we had a pair in the patch of tall pine grove on south side of Run & another in Pulpit Rock woods - where two males were heard on June 28. On the 29th I heard two at Davis Hill. There must have been one at Ball's Hill also & probably another on Pine Ridge but the species was not actually noted in either of these localities. The males sang ceaselessly through May & June but mostly early in the former & late in the latter month.

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31. Yellow Red-poll Warbler. Occurring from April 12 to May 3 in about normal numbers, i.e. but sparingly, four birds seen on April 30 being the greatest number noted in the course of any one day. They were met with singly, for the most part, usually along wood edges and bush-grown stone walls. On May 2 two appeared in one apple orchard, intermingling with herds of Yellow-rumps assembled there. The ♂ Red-poll warblers uttered their feeble, halting songs not infrequently on some occasions but as a rule were more nearly silent than are most migrating warblers of other kinds.

32 Oven bird, Arrived May 4. No obvious subsequent flight of migrants bound further north. Local birds as common and generally distributed as usual. Eight males heard singing along half mile of Bigelow Road on May 28.

33. Northern Water Thrush. I failed altogether to meet with this species but Mr. Dexter reports hearing a ♂ sing in Fairy land on May 8.

34. Mourning Warbler. The first song of an unseen Mourning Warbler came thrice to my ears in quick succession about 9.30 A.M. on June 5, from somewhere within the depths of the forest that shaded in front of our farmhouse, as I was standing near it.

35 Maryland Yellow-throat. Arrived May 5. Rather more numerously represented than usual, in May & June, about our farm where as many as four or five males might be heard daily. One frequented the forest bushes in front of the house & the shrubbery along the Cam, another that bordering on the cow pasture, a third the Run, two others the Berry Pasture. On June 29 I heard no less than six males singing along the edges of the flooded river meadows lying between Davis's & Holden's Hills. A ♀ was seen collecting building material in the Berry Pasture on May 24.

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36. Canadian Warbler. A ♂ singing in our trees May 21, two ♂♂ heard then on the 26th and two more along the Bigelow Road on the 28th were literally all the birds of this species noted by me the present season. Hitherto there has always been a breeding pair in Davis Swamp and usually another in the swamp behind Ball's Hill but I failed to detect their presence in either locality during visits to both made in June.
37. Redstart. Arrived May 11. During the night two whistles I noted singer birds almost daily at our Farm. There were seen there on the 26th and two, apparently a mated pair, on the 27th. After that there was only a presumably bachelor ♂ not always present and shifting from place to place whenever he reappeared. Almost certainly the species failed to nest anywhere in our immediate neighborhood this year although formerly accustomed to do so abundantly at Ball's Hill & at the Farm.
38. Red-eyed Vireo. First noted on May 13. No obvious migration of birds passing further north. During the latter half of May and the whole of June two ♂♂ sang daily in the tops near our house. There must have been at least three or four more in woodland lying between it & Bird Field with perhaps as many on and near Ball's Hill although my notes record six as the greatest number certainly heard in all these localities during a single day. Only one nest found.
39. Solitary Vireo. Arrived May 3. On the 20th & 21st two males were singing in Pulpit Rock woods. After that no more than one was ever heard there. He shifted his ground from time to time & was never seen accompanied by a mate but remained in or near these woods through June & in full song up to July 7. I heard another ♂ at Blackman Ridge (near Ball's Hill) on May 25 and still another in woods bordering the Bigelow Road, on May 28.

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40. Yellow-throated Vireo. For the first time since I have owned the Barrett-farm it failed, this year, to harbor a pair of nesting Yellow-th. vireos. A ♂ was heard singing there, near the house, however, on May 2, 23 & 24 and on June 7, 2 & 5. Elsewhere, one was noted in Bedford bridge on May 14 & June 21, in Concord valley (by Dexter) on May 15. Throughout the entire Concord Region the species seems to have been diminishing steadily in numbers during recent years until now it has become, apparently, of less common occurrence than the Solitary Vireo. This widespread and very considerable decrease is perhaps due to the almost universal spraying with poison of shade trees near houses - in which Vireos of this species almost invariably nest.

41. Warbling Vireo. At our farm, a ♂ sang in trees overhanging the road near the big elm on May 12 and either the self-same bird or another in the apple orchard on the 21st. I heard still another in Billerica, near Dudley Pittman's house, on June 4.

42. Cedar bird. A flock of 20 (counted) flying low over Green Field on April 15. Two in blossoming apple tree in our orchard on May 13. After that noted almost daily through May and June, usually singly or in pairs & very near our house, but seven birds were seen together, flying over the Berry Pasture, on May 24 and nine, eating black-bush berries by the roadside in Carlisle, on June 21. One of a pair that appeared close under the front windows of the house on June 18 was collecting fine blades of dry grass which she selected and plucked with characteristic deliberation, from a neglected tuft on the border of a flower bed, and finally carried off in her bill towards the Bumpstone, no doubt to a nest in some apple tree or white pine thereabouts. Both she & her mate were in full plumage with conspicuous "sealing wax" adornment on their wings.

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43. Purple Martin. Seen or heard at the Farm on May 2, 4, 5, 22, 27 and June 21, at Ball's Hill on May 25. Mr. Dexter reports all the breeding colonies in or near Concord village sadly depleted in numbers and some boxes, hitherto occupied annually, completely deserted this year.

44. Earl Swallows. Single birds seen occasionally at the Farm, the first on May 15. The breeding colony established last year under the eaves of Stedman Buttrick's master-coated garage near Flint's Bridge was reoccupied again this season. Acting on my advice Mr. Buttrick had all the old nests knocked down in April to prevent House Sparrows from taking possession of them. Twenty-two finished new nests & others begun were seen there by Messrs. Faxon & Tyler on May 25. Four days later Mr. Buttrick informed me that the Sparrows were fast driving the Swallows away and laying in their nests. I urged him to shoot the Sparrows which he did shortly afterwards, killing upwards of 40 in the course of a few days. On June 27 he reported that most of the Swallows had returned and were feeding well-fledged young in some 18 or 20 nests while only a single pair of Sparrows had escaped his guns, to remain about the place. I also learn from George S. Hayes that 6 or 7 Swallow nests were built & occupied under the eaves of his wooden barn this year - no doubt by birds banished from the Buttrick colony by the Sparrows. In the days of my youth there was always a large colony of Earl Swallows & another of Martins, at the Hayes place.

45. Barn Swallows. Arrived April 17. No obvious passage of birds bound further north. Those breeding along our road more numerous than for many years past. Almost every barn with convenient openings sheltered from one or two to six or eight pairs. They were flying in or out of the old Bigelow barn incessantly and skimming

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(Barn Swallow) low over every neighboring field & meadow when I visited that locality on May 28. Duren reports a very considerable increase in the numbers frequenting his place. We had none breeding at our farm last year but ^{this season} a single pair reoccupied the old nest built there originally a dozen or more years ago and after that tenanted for many successive years. After adding to it somewhat the present spring the ♀ laid 5 eggs and incubated them awhile but both birds disappeared about June 10 and on the 12th I found wing & tail feathers of one of them strewn over the cement floor of an neighboring open shed. As the nest was undisturbed I think the bird must have been caught outside the building, while skimming low above the ground, by some prowling cat.

46. Tree Swallow. Two appeared at our farm on April 6 and five on the 16th. Towards the end of May we heard them pairs nesting in boxes one over the horse shed, another over the carriage shed, the third in an isolated apple tree across the road near the well house. There was a fourth nest in Benson's pasture but none at the Ritchie place. The birds at the farm were feeding young in two boxes from June 18 to 28. The third nest there (on our shed) had been for some reason deserted before this date. I saw the pair at the box in Benson's pasture on June 15 & believe they reared their young.

It is not improbable that the Concord Tree Swallows suffered rather severely from a heavy snow fall on April, 28 for they were decidedly less numerous after than before it. Two birds that had begun a nest in one of our boxes rather early in the season were driven from it, when half completed, by a pair of Bluebirds the ♀ of which laid in it afterwards - only to have her eggs devoured subsequently by some predatory mammal - as already related in their notes (under the Bluebird heading).

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47. Bank Swallow. Occasionally seen or heard about the farm, for the first time on May 2. Noted at Ball's Hill on June 15. I failed to visit any of the sand pits where the species is accustomed to breed and had no report of them through other observers. Nor were the river meadows scouted closely enough to ascertain whether or not the birds occurred in the usual numbers there.

48. Scarlet Tanager. First noted on May 18, when a silent ♂ was seen. No obvious passage of birds bound further north. After the local-breeding ones had all come there were apparently only four pairs settled in our woodland, one near the foot of the Farm Lane, another in Birch Field, a third in Prescott Pines, a fourth on Holden's thicket. The ♂ of the farm-frequenting pair sang not infrequently in clods or other tall shade trees standing close about our house. His mate built her nest in a small, slender red cedar growing by the side of a cart path near the foot of the lane. Into it she certainly flew carrying building material in her bill on June 19 when, by merely looking through its flimsy walls (it was scarce above the level of my face), I could see, apparently, that it was quite empty and still unfinished. Similarly cursory inspection made two days later (21st) revealed only a single egg. Nevertheless I must somehow have been misled in respect to both observations for when I next visited the nest, on June 28, it contained three young and these at least two or three days old. Hence the full set of eggs was doubtless laid at least as early as the date of my first visit although how I could then have altogether overlooked them seems rather difficult to comprehend. Elsewhere than within the boundaries of our land I noted the Tanager this season only near the Bigelow Road on May 28 and in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery on July 6, hearing a ♂ in song on each occasion.

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49. Evening Grosbeaks. Miss Mary & Miss Hattie Eaton dwell not far from the village center of Concord on a shaded hillside that slopes steeply down to Monument Street from the rear of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Close about their house stand several large white oaks, felled upwards of sixty years ago, and various other ornamental trees among which are two or three well-grown Norway Spruces. Shortly after settling at our farm I was called to the telephone one evening (that of the 8th April) by Miss Mary Eaton who informed me that six Evening Grosbeaks, a ♂ and 5 ♀♀, had appeared at 10.30 that forenoon, in trees near the house. When, at length, they flew off several others joined them but just how many there were in all she could not say. The next day four were seen by her at 8 a.m. and eight (1 ♂ & 7 ♀♀) by Mr. Dexter about noon. On the 10th the same flock of eight reappeared to be seen by both Miss Eaton & Mr. Dexter. Learning on that day of their presence Reginald Helen Howe Jr. telephoned her to request permission to shoot one of them for the Shoreland Museum Collection. Being refused he was not heard from again & is unknown to have visited the place to see the birds. They were unnoticed by any one on the 11th but at 9.15 on the morning of the 12th Miss Mary telephoned me that they were back again. I motored there as soon as our Ford car could be got ready, reaching the Eaton house at 10.40. The Grosbeaks had flitted away only a few minutes before, Miss Eaton said, but we found them presently, further up the hillside and just outside a boundary wall of the Cemetery, the ♂ on grass ground in a sunny opening directly beneath a scraggy apple tree in which the others were perched. On counting the members of the flock repeatedly & carefully I was not a little surprised to find that besides the ♂ there were no less than ten birds in ♀ plumage or cloven altogether. Miss Eaton's surprise was even greater for no one had hitherto made certain

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(Evening Grosbeak) of more than eight and she felt positive that this number had never once before been exceeded except perhaps on the occasion of their first appearance & departure when, she thought, there might have been as many as ten together. The latter remained long in the apple tree sometimes scattered all over & throughout its branches, occasionally clustering here and there by threes or fours, always perching erect & statuesque when most, ever sluggish and listless of movement when hopping or flitting from twig, silent for the most part but every now and then uttering staccato calls which might easily have been mistaken for those of House Sparrows although although appreciably shriller or more piping and perhaps, as Miss Eaton thought, somewhat suggestive in quality of the spring voices of *Pituitus Hyemalis*. No other vocal notes were heard by us on this occasion. At length the birds took wing and with swift, moderately undulating flight swept over the open hill-top to a cluster of gray birches beyond where they sat as inactive as before for many minutes finally flying off in a northwesterly direction until lost to sight in far distance. Nor are they known to have ever returned after this. On examining the ground close to the house, or on one which they have been feeding mostly, I found it thickly strewn with white ash seeds, evidently scattered widely by strong winds for very many were not under any tree from which they could have come.

There were also less numerous but elder seeds, beneath two well grown trees of that species, and these, Miss Eaton thinks, may have supplied most of the food of the Grosbeaks, for she did not see them eating the white ash seeds although Purple Finches had been feasting on them for a week or more and were still doing so when I was there. It is noteworthy, if not also rather remarkable, that this flock of Evening Grosbeaks, like that viewed by me at Lexington on January 24, should have suddenly increased from a lesser number to just eleven members, on the occasion of my only visit to their haunts and after that should never have been seen there again by anyone!

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(Evening Grosbeak) Early in the morning of May 4 a solitary ♂ Evening Grosbeak paid our farm a fleeting visit. He was first seen, just as we were sitting down to breakfast, crossing the open field in front of the house, with low, undulating flight, to alight in the top of the big cone by the roadside where he uttered loudly & incessantly the usual House-Sparrows-like call sometimes closely followed by a rolling or chuckling whistled one. Soon after this he flew across the road to a bushy wild apple tree growing by a well, near the well house, perching on one of its outer, low drooping branches no more than eight feet above the ground, where Gilbert and I approached him closely (certainly to within 20 yards) and viewed him to excellent advantage, for several minutes, in clear, well-diffused light, under an overcast sky.

Thus seen he seemed to possess an unusual amount of yellow, especially on the back, and this of an exceptionally pale cast. There was also more conspicuous white in his plumage than birds of his kind & sex commonly show. His next flight, to and along the public roadway, terminated at the young white oak that shades our mail box, in which he sat for a few moments before rising high in air and crossing Lawrence's fields to extensive woodland beyond where I had my final view of him perched on the topmost spray of a tall Chestnut, not less than four hundred yards away & looking scarce bigger than a pin head, yet even from that distance his harsh call came faintly to my ears. Altogether we had him under observation for about ten minutes, during which he sat bolt upright and never once shifted his foot-hold, when perched, while he called ceaselessly, except when on wing, as if hoping to be answered by others of his kind - which never happened. The harsh, Sparrow-like note and the short, guttural, rolling whistle, already mentioned were the only utterances heard on this occasion.

On nearly if not precisely this same date a ♀ Evening Grosbeak appeared in Bedford village, as I afterwards learned from Mr. & Mrs. Blinn. They report that it tried to enter a bird box close to their house, from which it was driven away by some House Sparrows. Of its sex they are quite certain, having viewed it long and at near range.

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50. Purple Finch. Several Purple Finches in full song were frequenting ash trees in Miss Eaton's grounds at Concord Village when I visited her on April 12. She said they had then been there for two weeks or more, feeding on the ash seeds, sometimes in company with Hairy Grackles. On the 17th a ♂ appeared near our farm house to sing daily and most delightfully in its neighborhood through the entire season. Sometimes he was accompanied by a ♀. Just when the pair mated I failed to ascertain. Two young presumably reared by them were seen on wing in the apple orchard on June 24.

51. Red Crossbill. My only records are of five or six birds flying together through Pulpit Rock woods, calling loudly, on April 25 and of a single bird seen on wing, among the same white firs, on the 25th of the month.

52. Goldfinch. Seen singly, in pairs or occasionally as many as four or five together, at not infrequent intervals during the entire season. They continued to feed on gray birch seeds as late as May 18 and not long after that began eating dandelion seeds while the ripe fruit of our white mulberry tree attracted them to it daily early in July. Some of the males had acquired a mostly black & yellow plumage by May 3 but few perfected it until June. One was heard in nearly full song on April 17. All began singing more or less freely about the middle of June.

53. Pine Siskin. The flight call and wee-e-e-e song (2) notes of a Pine Finch were heard in Birch Field on April 10. I failed to see the bird and noted no other during the spring.

54. Savanna Sparrow. Mr. Dexter heard two males singing in Mill Brook meadow, to the eastward of the Moore farm, sometime in June.

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55. Vesper Sparrows. First noted on April 5. Afterwards present in normal numbers during the entire season, throughout all their accustomed haunts in our neighborhood. Singing freely at all hours up to close of May after which they were heard less often, usually at morning & evening only, until the first week of July when the second song period began with renewed vigor and obviously improved sweetness and finish of their delightful chanting, in the fields that had "release from the sickle and the rake"

56. Grasshopper Sparrow: Listed herein solely on authority of Mr. Dexter who, moreover, noted only a single bird - a ♂ heard singing in June not far from the ^{Baldwin} Ballie Farm. From all that I can learn of its present & recent local status the species would seem to have well-nigh ceased to frequent any part of the Concord Region in summer although not uncommon there formerly.

57. Henslow's Sparrows. A male singing in June, in a grassy meadow on the Halford Wheeler farm not far from the Fitchburg R.R. Station, was reported to me by Mr. Dexter. So far as I am aware no other bird of its kind was noted within Concord limits this season.

58. White-crowned Sparrows. Two handsome plumaged birds together in our Farm lane on May 13. One uttered away now and then a sweet, plaintive song beginning with two notes very like a Vesper Sparrow's opening ones & followed by here a downy note suggestive of those of the Fox Sparrow. My crude, whistled imitation of them was often promptly answered by their author. On the 14th a single bird, also in the lane, sang at intervals all day long. His song wild & plaintive reminding me of a Meadow Lark's. He also uttered the whist call and a faint, hissing chirp common to many Sparrows. It was, no doubt, the self-same male that continued to haunt the

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(White crowned Sparrow) came on the Forsythia thicket in front of our house during the next two days. On the 15th he was heard in full song, every now and then, through the entire day but on the 16th kept silent save in early morning. He had a wild, sweet, plaintive voice and notes essentially unvaried in form & sequence yet differing sufficiently in quality or expansion from time to time to remind me by turns of those of the vesper Sparrow, of the Tree Sparrow, of the Meadow Lark and, occasionally, even of the Hermit Thrush. Such suggestiveness implies, of course, that the song was very pleasing and it so impressed me despite the fact that it was not sufficiently loud to be heard distinctly & to the best advantage at distances exceeding fifty or sixty yards.

59. White-throated Sparrow. First noted at our farm on April 27. Last on May 21. On these and various intervening dates birds were seen or heard along the lane or in Birch Field, never more than one daily save on May 13 when two were observed. Most were immature and sang but feebly or listlessly.

60. Tree Sparrow. Heard a male singing freely & delightfully in our Bury Pasture on April 12 but failed to note the species on any other occasion.

61. Chipping Sparrow. Arrived April 16. Bred in normal numbers throughout our farming lands & others in their neighborhood. Nest in vine on Bungalow porch held 3 eggs on May 21. The young left it on June 13. Another nest, begun in a cedar in front of our house on May 13, was not laid in. Still another, in a cedar growing in the lane, contained, on June - , a single egg fused with a small bird, presumably by one of the pair of House Wrens nesting in a box hard by. A pair of Chipping seen in Birch Field on May 14 probably nested there.

1916.

62. Field Sparrows. First noted in Concord village (by Dexter), on April 10, at our Farm on the 17th. Between the latter date & the 30th I heard at least three different males singing in our orchard, or lane, or in the Forsythia bushes in front of the house, each of the three having a song unlike that of either of the others. Through May and June a male sang in Horv's pasture (near the northern side of Darius's Hill) and another in our Berry Pasture while in the latter two males were answering each other on June 18. Thus there were certainly two & perhaps three birds of that sex spending the breeding season in our immediate neighborhood - something that has not happened there before for several years past. The bird frequently Horv's pasture sometime shifted across the road to the open ground sprinkled with young firs, just to the eastward of the Fletcher place, and sang there for days in succession. Elsewhere I noted the species only once - in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery on May 4.

63. Juncos. Resident through the first winter at our Farm, in some numbers, according to Burbank. Normally abundant at usual dates during north-bound migration in April, the heaviest flights occurring on the 4th, 5th, 8th, 12th, 20th and 27th, when from thirty to fifty birds were noted daily. Last seen (a single ♀) at the Farm on May 5. On the 20th a mated pair were observed in Fairyland, on the steep wooded hillside that slopes down to the eastern shore of the pond, by Fayson & Robbins. Dexter found them together three days later. Although no nest was discovered it seems probable that they had one in that neighborhood. The pair that reared a brood of young in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery last year were not seen there this season although looked for carefully by Fayson, Robbins & others.

1916.

64. Song Sparrow. Two ♂♂ singing at the Farm when I reached there on April 4. Six were heard next day and five on the 6th, some of these being north-bound migrants, doubtless, for after that no more than three were noted within the same area, one singing daily in or near the Forsythia thicket in front of our house, another across the road in the Bear Pasture, the third, with his mate, haunted a belt of bushes at the foot of the slope next the Cow Pasture, where they were seen with young just out of nest on June 8. There was also a pair frequenting the Fletcher place and another Mr. Howes flower garden. Thus the birds breeding in localities that I am accustomed to visit regularly remained about the same in numbers and occupied the same stations as in former recent years. I saw little of the Reed's till again this season but when there on June 29 heard no less than six Song Sparrows in full song along the edge of the river meadows which at that time were mostly under water - and had been continuously during the entire spring.

65. Swamp Sparrow. Because of the exceptionally long-continued period of high water, just referred to, the accustomed breeding haunts of the Swamp Sparrows along Concord River Harbor, ^{Comparatively} few birds of that species this year. Indeed I noted only one ♂ singing in May (28th) near Ball's Hill but on June 22 two were heard there & a third at Davis Hill, all three among bushes bordering the still flooded meadows.

66. Fox Sparrow. Only a trifle more numerously represented during this spring than last - a season of exceptional scarcity. Noted by me only at the Farm where four birds were seen on April 6, two on the 8th, 9th & 10th, three on the 11th, one on the 15th, one on the 16th - or not more than fifteen in all, as compared with some thirteen met with last year in the same locality, during the corresponding month. They appeared in something like old-time abundance during north-bound migration in 1914 but during the autumn of that year I met with only a single bird at Concord.

1916.

67. Towhee. First noted on May 6 when a pair spent the day in a thicket at the rear of our barn. During the remainder of that month and almost to the close of June a ♂ sang regularly in Birch Field and another among oak scrub on a ridge South of the River while a third, sometimes accompanied by his mate, was seen or heard not infrequently in Cedar Park. All three birds presumably nested where they were constantly to be found. Elsewhere I met with the species only along the old Bigelow Road where two birds were heard calling on May 28.

68. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The Misses Eaton saw a ♂ Grosbeak near their house in Concord village on May 2. The species was first noted by me at our farm on the 8th when a ♂ was heard singing in the Berry Pasture. It was probably this self. Same bird that remained in our neighborhood during the entire season delighting me constantly with his rich, flowing song crossing by turns from orchard or shade trees close about the house, from thence along the Lane, from woods or thickets in the River and in the Berry Pasture. On May 22 he was seen in the orchard accompanied by a mate. No doubt the pair bred somewhere in or near it but if so their nest escaped my notice. Two males sang there daily, not far apart, from May 24 to 28. I heard one in Birch Field on the 18th of May and another at Balls Hill on June 15. Thus, during the present breeding season, the species occurred as commonly in our neighborhood as it has within any very recent year although much less so than in the now rather remote past when it used to be found so numerously in summer, especially on the wooded ridges stretching along the River from Holdens to Davis's Hills. Our Farm bird continued in full song up to the middle of June and later was heard singing rather freely on the 29th of that month while he sang twice loudly & well at 10 a. m. on July 8.

69. Indigo Bird. Arrived May 10. Later in the month & through June we had the usual number of birds, occupying their accustomed stations, i. e. one near our house, another at the Beehive place, a third just across the wall at H. W. corner of Birch Field.

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70. Bobolink. First noted on May 1, when a single ♂ passed over our orchard at 4 P.M., flying high in air, heading due south and indulging in frequent brief outbursts of rolling song, especially good to hear thus coming out of the belly, at so exceptionally early a date. After all the Bobolinks had arrived and settled for the season there were no more than last year and hence only a very few as compared with those we used to have breeding throughout the Concord Region not so very long ago. Many, indeed, of their former accustomed summer haunts have been completely deserted of late and even those most favored now are but sparsely populated. Within half a mile or so of the Farm I noted certainly this spring no more than three different breeding pairs, one in Lawrence's fields another in Hower's meadow at the base of Holden's Hill, the third in Bigelow Brook meadow, above the road. The male of the first-named pair was always to be heard plainly from our farm house and sometimes sang for half an hour at a time perched among the upper branches of the big elm by the roadside or somewhere in our grassy field beyond. He continued in full song up to the middle of June and did not altogether cease to sing listlessly & briefly until the close of that month.

Elsewhere than in the immediate neighborhood of our Farm Bobolinks were nowhere numerous this season if I may judge from what little was seen of them by me during occasional motor rides along roads leading through open, grassy country where they once bred abundantly.

71. Low-birds. Seen or heard occasionally in April, May & June, usually in our orchard or flying past the house. Four birds (2♂♂ 2♀♀) feeding in newly ploughed field on April 5, by together on wing on the 29th. By May 18 a Chiffy had finished her nest in a little red cedar

1916.

(Cow-bird) growing within two yards of our dining room front windows. At 1 P.M. on that day a ♀ Cow-bird came flying low over the lawn straight for the cedar and disappeared in its dense foliage, just where the nest was, almost without checking her speed while still exposed to view. She remained there only a few seconds, however, for, acting thoughtlessly, on impulse afterwards regretted, I rapped loudly on the window pane and frightened her away. Although the Chipping was seen to enter this nest next day she laid no egg in it and presently built another, not far off.

72. Red-winged Blackbird. The male Red-wings receded toward before I did, of course. They afterwards visited our farm lands or those of our near neighbors, not infrequently, although somewhat less numerous than usual, especially during the month of April, feeding in ploughed ground or stubble fields, and every now & then clustering to sing awhile in some leafless tree tops. From the river meadows they were banished during the entire breeding season by exceptionally long-protracted floods due to almost incessant rain in May & June. A few pairs nested along Bigelow Brook and other small streams that flow through meadows above the level of those bordering on the river. In June I saw many birds of both sexes in meadows lying near the source of the Shaw-shen River, in Bedford, and to the eastward of Lexington Park, as we were motoring to or from Cambridge. On June 15 I spent the entire forenoon at or near Ball's Hill without seeing a single Red-wing but a ♂ was singing there and another at Davis Hill on the 29th of the month, when the water had fallen somewhat although it continued to overflowed the greater part of the river meadows.

Cora cord, Mass.

1916

October 24

Early this forenoon (about 9.30) I heard what seemed to be the calls of an Evening Grosbeak coming apparently from somewhere near the foot of our lane. They were the notes which rather closely resemble those of the House Sparrow but much louder than those of any Sparrow and otherwise sufficiently unlike them in quality to attract my attention at once & to also recall the voice of the Grosbeak heard here last May. After they had been repeated at least a score of times in quick succession I hastened down the lane but they ceased before I reached the cedar grove and then came even fainter & fainter from afar, indicating plainly enough that the unseen bird had taken flight southward. It may be well to add that no House Sparrow has been seen or heard anywhere about the place thus far this autumn. That the bird heard this morning was an Evening Grosbeak I feel almost as certain as if it had been clearly viewed & recognized thus by sight instead of ear.

Evening
Grosbeak (?)

" 27

Shortly after breakfast (about 8 a.m.) I heard an Evening Grosbeak calling very near our house (in front of which I was standing) and apparently somewhere in the trees or shrubbery at the head of the lane. This time there could be no doubt whatever as to the identity of the bird for although unseen its voice, reached my ears with perfect distinctness and, as with the Grosbeak that appeared here last May, ^{the first} began with a series of harsh, House-Sparrow-like chirps which presently changed through integrating notes to mellow, whistling calls not unlike those of the Pine Grosbeak. All these utterances were given in quick succession and sounded very loud in the calm morning air. After coming from apparently nearby the source for half a minute or more they ceased abruptly, from which I inferred that their author was perched at first and then flew off in silence. It was provoking enough to thus fail to catch sight of him.

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73. Meadow Lark. Present in normal numbers throughout most, if not all, its accustomed summer haunts. A ♂ sang freely through April & May, only occasionally at noon & eve, during the first half of June (silent after the 15th), within ear range of our house, usually in Lawrence's fields, sometimes closer at hand, perhaps in the big elm or in one of the isolated apple trees across the road. There was another frequenting Horv's pasture & the Ritchie place.

74. Starling. Within the boundaries of our Farm I saw only one Starling in April (on the 6th), and never more than two birds daily before May 28 when a family party of six, four of which were young just on wing & clamoring loudly for food, supplied incessantly by their parents, appeared in time by the roadside. These young were perhaps reared in a hollow apple tree in the Abbott Lawrence orchard, where Mrs. Lawrence reports finding a nest containing several blue eggs about the first of the month. Another pair nested in a large shade tree close to the old Holden house according to its present occupant, Mrs. Howe. I saw no Starlings in large flocks before July 7 when upwards of 40 that had apparently been feeding in our cow pasture came flying from it low over the orchard. The species is said to have bred very commonly in and about Concord village this season.

75. Baltimore Oriole. Arrived in Concord village, May 3 (Dexter), at our Farm on the 6th. For the first time since I have been familiar with them the elms about our dooryard sheltered no Orioles' nest this year although visited daily by one or both of a pair of birds who hatched & reared their brood in an elm near Lawrence house. Elsewhere throughout settled parts of Concord & especially along its village streets the bird in what seemed normal numbers.

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76. Rusty Blackbird. Noted only three this spring in the neighborhood of our farm where four birds were seen flying together, SW, on April 12, and five in an elm on the 18th while one was heard on May 7. No doubt they occur much more commonly about Concord village, according to Mr. Dexter who, however, met with a flock of fifteen near Flint's Bridge on April 17.

77. Bronzed Grackle. Two birds flying over our orchard on April 17, three on May 2 & one on the 21st represent all noted in that locality the present season. They probably came from the river marshes near Carlisle Bridge where I saw several of them, flitting to and fro, whenever we went that way in May & June, while motoring to & from Cambridge. Further down the river, near Mrs. Pitman's house, at least two or three pairs were noted among white juncos on June 4. The breeding colonies in & about Concord village were frequented by the usual number of Grackles, apparently.

78. Common Crow. No flights of north-bound migrants noted. Doubtless they had passed before I reached Concord. Our local-breeding birds seemed somewhat less numerous than usual. I seldom saw or heard more than half a dozen in the course of a single day. On June 15, however, upwards of twenty collected on the crest of a wooded ridge near the river, mobbing something with prolonged din of protesting voices among which could be distinguished that of the bird who habitually, if not invariably, says Car, can, accenting the second syllable very strongly. He was heard not infrequently during the entire spring, often near our farm house. Late in May crows made stealthy visits to our orchard not long after day break, presumably in quest of unflledged young Robins, many of which disappeared from the nests at that time. They also watched our newly-hatched with obvious evil intent but could not get at them because of overhead wire netting. On the evening of June 29 I disturbed a dozen or more crows which had evidently collected to roost in the tops of large dense-folaged forest trees on Roddick Hill.

1916.

79. Blue jay. Noted only five times in all during April - on the 10th, 12th, 13th, 14th & 29th. Nor were they more numerous represented before the middle of May. After that I saw them almost daily, often as many as 5 or 6 together, ranging through our orchard or bordering woodland in obvious quest of birds' eggs, sometimes maintaining a discreet silence when thus engaged, at others screaming incessantly. They also paid frequent visit in May to a field where one Jack had been seen picking up & devouring all that had been left unswallowed by the harrow. In June they fed mostly in the tops of tall oaks & other forest trees, presumably on larvae of the Gypsy & Forest Tent Moths, seeking these sometimes in elms close about the house. To what extent, if any, they preyed on the eggs or young of our orchard-nesting birds I failed to ascertain but certain it is that few such birds succeeded in rearing broods this year. No nest of the Robin Jay happened to come under my observation during the entire season.

80. King bird. Arrived May 6. Afterwards present in numbers more than the usual number in the neighborhood of the farm. Nesting pairs settled in Lawrence's orchard, Horv's pasture & elsewhere. Great none within our boundaries although they paid not infrequent visits to orchard & shade trees close about our house.

81. Crested Flycatcher. As usual this species was represented in our neighborhood by only a single pair, of which one bird arrived on May 6 and after that proclaimed his daily presence in the orchard by incessant loud, hoarse calling, whereas the other was not certainly noted until June 5, when the two were seen together flying into and from the hollow section of an apple tree, suspended in the orchard near the Buck shed, wherein they have nested regularly for ten or a dozen years. I saw

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(Crested Flycatcher! one of the Old birds visit it repeatedly with food for the young, on July 6, but gave it no closer attention during the present season, being unwilling to thereby risk disturbing the Flycatcher, whose long continued occupancy of it has been a source of so much pleasure & interest to me.

82. Phoebe. Dexter reported a ♂ singing in or near Cornsied village on March 28. I heard & saw the first on April 5th at our home, where his mate did not appear until the 12th. He sang more or less freely on both the 5th & 6th but after that was heard only twice during the remainder of the month - on the 17th & 29th. During May, also, he remained silent for the most part, being heard only on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 13th and 20th, while my notes record but a single instance of singing in June - on the 7th. Yet the pair nested as usual in our barn cellar and constantly frequented the dooryard close to the house. Their nest contained 3 eggs on May 2 and on the 20th 5 young which had not left it by the 28th, although then apparently about to do so. Soon after this they disappeared, to be seen no more as almost invariably happens when young Phobes first take wing - but both parents continued to be seen daily about the mouth of the cellar through the entire month of June and on the 28th I found that the ♀ had laid a second clutch of eggs in the same nest but just how many there were I failed to ascertain. The nest was, as usual, in an open-fronted box suspended from the ceiling of the cellar where rats & squirrels cannot get at it. Hence the birds are never troubled by them or other four-footed marauders but a gray Screech Owl, who from May 15th to about June 12 spent most of his days in the barn above the cellar, gave them no little concern when he showed himself at evening in an opening under the roof or gliding from it on wing, although he is not known to have molested them or their young. Another pair of Phobes bred, apparently successfully, in the cellar at the Talcott place but for the first time in many years I failed to note the spires at Bass' den.

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83. Wood Pewee. Within the boundaries of our lands at Concord the Wood Pewee nested regularly, not so very long ago, in half-a-dozen or more settled woodland places, as well as in the big clump that shades our dooryard, but has since deserted one after another of these ancestral haunts, probably because so many of the larger oaks & other forest trees have been destroyed by Gypsy & Brown-tooled moths. Last year only a single bird was noted but he favored us delightfully by singing daily, from May 24 to the close of June, close about the house. Either he or another with similarly pleasing voice, reappeared this season on May 25th after which I heard him ^{up to July 7,} very frequently, sometimes near the house, often in the Run just below Cedar Park or in the pine woods north of Pullin Road, occasionally in or about Birch Field. Being thus apparently given to wandering somewhat widely he was presumably without mate or nest but there may, after all, have been more than a single bird and, indeed, certainly some two on June 19 for I then heard one just behind our house immediately after leaving the other singing hundreds of yards away, in the Run.

Elsewhere the species was noted by me only twice this year - in woodland bordering the Old Bigelow Road, on May 28 and near Dudley Pittman's place in Bellville, on June 4.

84. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Heard one on May 21 - an early date of arrival - in dense, swampy cover near the head of our Run, where a small flock of migrating Warblers had also congregated. The Flycatcher uttered its listless pee-e call repeatedly & less often its che-let song notes, thereby establishing its identity as well as presence, for I failed to see eyes on it.

85. Alder Flycatcher. An unseen bird calling high incessantly for several minutes, about 3 P.M., on May 26, in dense thicket bordering brook that flows through our Berry Pasture.

1916.

86. Scart Flycatcher. First noted by Dexter in Concord village on May 1. Another calling ~~about~~ in orchard behind our house on the 3^d but he was not heard to utter the che-bee until the 8th after which it was given freely, at all hours of the day but especially at noon & eve, up to about the middle of June and occasionally still later in the season - for the last time, to my knowledge, on July 8. Only one pair nested in this orchard or elsewhere within our boundaries. I saw or heard a few other birds in apple orchards along Mount Street but they were, on the whole, decidedly less numerous than usual anywhere in our neighborhood.

87. Hummingbird. First noted at Webster's Farm on May 16. After that a single bird, usually a male, appeared five times in May & three in June about flowers blowing close about the house. Directly in front of it, on June 8, I saw a ♂ swoop down many times in deep, pendulum-like curves, over a ♀ perched on a topmost spray of the big Forsythia bush. On no other occasion were paired birds seen together. Hence I doubt if any nested in the immediate neighborhood although they have long been accustomed to do so.

88. Chimney Swift. Seen in Concord village by Dexter on May 2 & 3 but not at our house until the 4th, after which they were constantly present during the remainder of the season. Late in May & early in June as many as 5 or 6 sometimes appeared towards evening, cawing together over the house & orchard with happy twittering, but often times there would be no more than 3 or 4 thus present. We first heard them twining & calling after dark in chimney flues on May 25. At least two flues connecting respectively with the parlors & the dining room fireplaces - were occupied by a nesting pair each. I doubt if either reared any young. Two of the old birds descended to the fireplaces & died. Their dining room album from the house in shells of apparently incubated egg now found on the parlor hearth.

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89. Whippoorwill. A bird heard singing at evening on May 9, another on the 12th, three together on the 26; one on June 4 one on the 14th and two on the 17th. The voices of all three came to my ears while I was in or near our farm house, from varying distances and directions invariably to west or northwest, however, and oftentimes, it would seem, from low growth, scrubby woodland beyond Lancaster's fields & bordering on the old Pinglass Road. Only occasionally was one heard near at hand in our Berry Pasture and never once did the pleasingly burrled note sound anywhere to the south or east. Hence the entire wooded country lying between the Grass and the road that leads to Benson's was apparently threaded at all times by Whippoorwills this season although formerly much frequented by them, at least during hours of darkness. Whether or not there were any near North Hill I cannot say. They those which must have passed the entire summer within earshot from our house & to the westward or north-westward of it were heard so seldom is difficult to comprehend. Certainly they are and all remained severely silent throughout many a calm, warm evening in May and June and even when there was bright moonlight was much less vociferous than is this month at such times & seasons.

90. Nighthawk. No bird of this species, basking by day in full sunlight on a branch of any of the big elms that shade our dooryard, proclaimed his presence then by occasional harsh outcry as has happened so often at this season in former years, but one on wing was heard hooting at 5 P.M. on May 25 and another noted flying northward shortly before sunset on the 26th. A third, seen about 7 P.M. on June 6, soared in wide circles to a great height over Berry Field and then swooped down, directly over where I was standing, as if attempting to swoon but making no sound that reached my ears although keeping distinctly enough during upward flight. This was repeated several times.

1916

91. Hairy Woodpecker. Somewhat less numerous than in recent past years despite the ever-increasing amount of standing dead timber in our woodlands although whenever this abounds one need not go far to see or hear one or two birds. They sometimes visited our orchard trees and very often came to the old locusts standing close about the house. At least two or three pairs must have been feeding the summer the summer in one neighborhood yet I failed to ascertain where any of them nested.

92. Downy Woodpecker. When, some twenty-five years, I began purchasing the woodland that is now ours in Concord it was frequented at every season by at least a dozen Downy Woodpeckers to one Hairy. Since then the smaller bird has diminished and the larger increased in numbers until by now the former is comparatively rare if not nearing total extinction, locally. This season I failed to note a single pubescens anywhere until the very last day of August when one was seen in a birch by the roadside near our home.

93. Flicker. First noted on April 7. Shortly after this settled for the season in normal numbers, two pairs nesting at the Farm (in hollow trunk sections hung up in apple tree) and a third at Rich's place. All three presumably reared young of which many not long on wing frequented Orchard & shade trees near our house towards the last of June, calling to one another freely and using for this purpose much the same, if fuller, notes as those which make up the "chattering" of adult birds. The latter continued to utter it daily up to about June 7 but after that were not often heard.

Whether or no there were Flickers breeding at Ball's this year I failed to ascertain.

1916.

94. Kingfisher. Being seldom anywhere near the river this Spring I saw comparatively few Kingfishers. Two appeared at the Farm on April 11 flying low over the lane when one of them alighted in the top of an elm before following the other to the little pond in the Perry Pasture where a single bird was afterwards started from a log, much on May 5. Another was heard at the Farm on April 16 and still another seen there on May, on June 28. Norton informs me that a pair bred in a sandbank east of Sleepy Hollow, near Bedford Street, and the long occupied hole in Howe's sand bank near Hordens this year, I think, again tenanted for a bird was flying about it on April 16.

95. Yellow-bellied Cuckoo. First noted at Linton Farm on May 27 - a late date of arrival. Afterwards heard there almost daily through the entire month of June, usually in the Perry Pasture, sometimes in the apple orchard, occasionally in Beech Field. It is doubtful if more than a single pair bred anywhere in that immediate neighborhood. Elsewhere I notice the species only at Ball's Hill - June 29.

96. Black-bellied Cuckoo. Arrived at the Farm on May 27 - again an exceptionally late date for such appearance. Present throughout the breeding season in numbers which exceeded those of the Yellow-bellied Cuckoo in at least the proportion of two to one. Like that species the Black-bellied seemed to prefer the brush-grown Perry Pasture to all other haunts in our neighborhood. One heard there on the night of June 1 could ceaselessly, at short intervals, from 10 to 12 P.M. although there was then no light other than that shed by myriad stars shining in a cloudless sky. All the while the bird's voice came so loudly and insistently through the calm air and my open window as to effectively prevent me from going to sleep - yet it was very pleasing to listen to.

1916.

97. Screech Owl. At either end of our old barn, just under the projecting peak of its gable roof, is a heart-shaped opening about 12 inches high by 8 wide, cut by my order years ago in the hope that Swallows might make use of it - which thus far they have failed to do. Passing that way about 9 a.m. on May 15, I happened to glance at the aperture opening eastward and at once perceived that it was occupied by a gray Screech Owl, sitting bolt upright, with ^{his} ears erect, gazing dreamily through half-closed eyes, out into brilliant sunshine.

Thus engaged he was to be seen almost daily, at any hour, from the date just mentioned to June 12, in one or the other opening but sometimes he retreated to a rafters within the barn and occasionally could not be found anywhere in the building or its neighborhood. His choice of a diurnal perch did not seem to be much governed by weather conditions for he showed himself in the openings quite as freely, and for hours at a time, when the sun was shining brightly as when the sky was clouded - although most given to doing so, perhaps, in the early morning and late afternoon. With the oncoming of evening twilight one might see him glide forth on silent wing to spread terror & dismay among our nesting Robins, who followed him hither & thither through orchard and woodland protesting his unwelcome presence with clamorous outcry. Nor did it fail to give dissimilar concern to the Phoebe who for unnumbered years have nested in the cellar beneath the old barn. To the best of my knowledge & belief he never once molested any of these birds or their young but that cannot be said with equal confidence regarding his mate & a red Owl with a brood of young occupying a hollow oak trunk standing to the rear of, & some thirty yards from, the barn. Of her & their presence so near at hand I had no knowledge or even suspicion until May 26 when she flew low & close past me to the oak carrying in her bill a hairless, featherless

1916.

(Screech Owl) flesh-colored object which looked very like an unfledged young Robin and not improbably was one. For upon following back her line of flight I thought she must have come directly from an isolated apple tree and this was found to shelter a Robin's nest with the lining freshly torn out. Between this tree and the oak lies a perfectly open space fifty yards or more in width which the Owl was seen to cross. Yet it was then 9.30 A.M., with the sun shining brightly from a cloudless sky. That so sick and how and place she should have sought and captured prey of any kind seems rather surprising. On reaching the hollow oak she ceased checked her swift-gliding flight purposefully before entering a round hole originally drilled by a Flicker and not since enlarged, being reminded about by sound made. It afforded so poor a view of the dimly-lighted chamber within that the young Owls, unquestionably there at the time, could not be sighted. Nor did we afterwards see again or more than one and he, poor bird, was found lying dead beneath a neighboring shed, albeit without sign of external injury and having flight quills fully developed although his red body feathers were still plentifully interspersed with whitish natal down. This happened about June 15. As the dead bird was in fresh condition he and the others presumably left the nest about that date. Save on the single occasion above mentioned the mother bird remained unseen and probably within the oak, by day, but often appeared when twilight was deepening at evening, gliding on noiseless wing through the apple orchard with repeated Robin's clanging in her wail. Strange to say no vocal sound of any kind, however trifling, was ever once heard from any of these Owls during April, May or June, despite the fact that the parent birds certainly hatched and reared their brood within sixty yards of the house in which I was, not only living all the while, but also strolling about constantly long after nightfall. That they should live and all have preserved such apparently unbroken silence during so long

1916

(Screech Owl) a period seemed truly remarkable; yet I have had had similar experience in former years with Screech Owl breeding in the same neighborhood (See notes for June 1901 & 1904, especially).

Farmer neighbors and bird loving friends from various distances came to view the male Owl while he was fastening the old barn and were much impressed by his statuesque poses and by the subdued beauty of his soft gray plumage. He was seen to best advantage when sitting in one or the other of the apertures just under the gable roof, fully exposed to outer daylight, yet backed by musing shadows within the building, and showing every detail of form, color and marking with admirable distinctness. Thus environed he would not infrequently suggest a realistic painting of such a bird, but in a heart-shaped frame of weathered wood, or perhaps a well-mounted specimen similarly displayed. At first he would compress his body plumage to the utmost and bring his eyelids together in such a way as to reduce the spaces between them to narrow, vertical slits, whenever he was conscious of close human observation, but it soon ceased to give him any obvious concern or ~~troubled~~ ^{troubled} him, for he was long and abstractedly, through wide opened eyes, out into brilliant sunshine, however many people might be moving about and talking on the ground beneath. His feathered ear tufts invariably stood erect, with their tips scarce an inch apart. He thought them longer, narrower and more acutely pointed than those of most Screech Owls and wondered how they could be kept in such immaculate order - each with gently-tapering outlines exactly matching those of the others and never anywhere a misplaced or disrupted feather. Very admirable, too, were their delicately penciled markings. That they served not merely to adorn the bird but also added immeasurably to his general interest and imperiousness, was unmistakable.

1916.

98. Pigeon Hawk. A ♀ seen on May 7 flew back & forth low over the field in front of our farm house, in company with a ♂ Sharp-shinned Hawk, frequently swooping at him, apparently sportively, and accompanying each swift lunge by a shrill cree, cree, cree outcry not unlike that of the Duck Hawk but less hurried and prolonged, only three or four notes being uttered at any one time and these in rather slow succession.

99. Sparrow Hawk. Noted only twice - on April 30 when one appeared at the Farm flying over, high in air, towards the south-east, and on the 18th of the same month when a ♂ was seen on wing near Great Rockford Station.

100. Fish Hawk. At 3 P.M. on April 20 I saw a Fish Hawk flying north-east, over our orchard, so very high in air (not less than a mile, I thought) that he looked no bigger than a Swallow, yet was easily recognizable, moreover, by his white underparts & characteristic set of wings etc. Norton reported another seen by him near Concord bridge on May 20.

101. Marsh Hawk. Although this species has obviously been diminishing in numbers for several years past throughout the Concord Region it has not ceased as yet to appear occasionally, even in late spring & early summer, at October Farm. During the present season I noted three a ♂ on April 17, May 23, June 5th and 8th and a ♀ on May 13. The bird seen on June 8 was flying through the apple orchard, just below the tops of the trees, where I made a few squeaking, rattle-like sounds. Upon hearing these the Hawk turned back and heading straight for me came within 20 yards before discovering that he had been thus tricked. Yet I was standing in an open space, fully exposed to his view.

1916

102. Goshawk. When, early in April, I went to O'Brien Farm Burbank informed me that a Carp Hawk had frequented it during the latter part of the preceding winter and twice to his knowledge had approached the poultry yard closely, thereby occasioning much alarm among our fowls. Shortly after this I found in brushy growth places, within or bordering extensive woodlands, feathered remains of no less than four Ruffed Grouse all of which had been killed, plucked and devoured to the very last fleshy morsel, evidently by some large bird of prey who had voided its chollery waste excrement freely over more than one of the spots where it had feasted so sumptuously. That it was a Goshawk can scarcely be doubted for on April 16 I had a glimpse of what looked very like one flying over Birds' Field and on the 19th fully identified a very large female, also on wing and following precisely the same line of flight as the first. As she passed me within 60 yards, in full sunlight and a little below the tops of the latter trees, I could see that she was not fully mature, the "blue" of her upper parts being somewhat tinged with brownish and her under parts having coarse, dark longitudinal streaks. She looked almost as big as an Osprey but resembled Cooper's Hawk in respect to form & proportions and had much the same swift, gliding flight, performed, ~~for~~ the most part, with only occasional wing beats. It seemed suggestion alike of irresistible momentum and of stealthy, murderous intent. How fear-inspiring to all lesser defenceless woodland creatures must be the appearance of a Goshawk in their haunts. Once fairly sighted and pursued by him even the wary and fleet-winged Partridge can have but little if any chance of escape although resourceful enough to commonly elude almost all other predatory birds & beasts.

1916.

103. Cooper's Hawk. The woodland half encircling Octavia Farm & stretching uninterruptedly thence to Davis's & Ball's Halls has heretofore never failed to be frequented in Spring & Summer by Cooper's Hawks while one or two pairs of these birds have often been found nesting within its confines. This year, however, I noted the species only once - on May 11 when a ♂ flying northward passed low over our orchard.

104. Sharp-shinned Hawk. - For this species, also, I can give but a single record - that of a ♂ seen on May 7 flying to and fro low over the field in front of our house, occasionally soaring above it to a height of 100 feet or more, sporting all the while with a ♀ Pigeon Hawk as already described in the note relating to that species. It was interesting to directly compare the flight of the two birds. That of the Sharp-shin was slower and more buoyant or floating than that of the ♀ alone, giving one the impression of decidedly inferior momentum. The Parasitic uttered no sound that reached my ears. The two finally drifted off out of sight to the eastward - still keeping close company.

105. Red-shouldered Hawk. Almost if not quite as commonly represented as in previous years, soaring and screaming high above our farm & woodland whenever the weather was fine, from early in April to the close of June, although appearing this less often after than before the 1st of May. Certainly one and perhaps two or three pairs bred in that neighborhood but the nest in the big chestnut at Holden's Hill was apparently unoccupied for when I visited it on May 25 it was closed over with dry leaves as if by Gray Squirrels. Beneath it I picked up the twisted feathered joint of a young Butcher bird so weathered that it must have lain there since last year.

1916.

106. Broad-winged Hawk. A ♂ perched in a dead tree top in our Run on April 25 permitted rather close approach and was very clearly seen. He looked uncommonly small and indeed seemed bigger than a female Sharp-shin. A similar-looking bird, probably the self-same one, was seen thrice on the 29th of the month, flying low through our orchard.

107. Bald Eagle. An immature bird in plain brown plumage seen on May 20, by Mr. & Mrs. Robbins, soaring high over the wooded country near Walden Pond. It is interesting to recall in this connection that a similar looking Eagle was sighted on May 19 of last year at our farm & by these same two country field ornithologists.

108. Carolina Dove. Noted on the following dates, only: April 21, when a bird cooed many times at short regular intervals, about 9 o'clock, in Prescott pines; April 26 when one was heard cooing on Davis Hill & either the same or another seen flying through our Run; May 31, ~~about~~ June 4, when a solitary bird, startled by the approach of our motor car, rose from a sandy roadside near Carlick Bridge; June 9, when two Doves flying over the river meadows bordering Caesar's woods, were seen by me from the windows of a passing railroad train.

109. Ruffed Grouse. Remains of four birds killed & eaten by some bird of prey, presumably a Goshawk, were found by me early in April, in bushy places about the edges of our cultivated land. Nevertheless the number of Partridges afterwards seen in neighboring woodlands was nearly if not quite normal for that time of year. Goshawk birds began drumming on April 16. They were heard at the head of the Run, on the old wall further down, near Barrett Spring & on Beech Field. I met with no brood of newly hatched young this year.

1916.

110. Quail. A ♂ whistling "bob. white" from 6 to 9 a.m. on May 26, in field just across road from our farm house. I noted no others in that neighborhood but flushed a pair, on June 4, near Dudley Pitman's duck pond in Billerica. Prescott reports a boy that passed last winter at the rear of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, breaking up in song. It may have included the bird that paid us so brief a visit, besides others heard by Steadman Buttrick in June, near his place at Flint Bridge.

111. Ring-necked Pheasant. The sight of 5 hen Pheasants feeding together on the morning of April 5 led me to think that several broods of young were likely to be hatched and reared in that neighborhood. I met with none, however, and neither saw nor heard as many old birds as usual. The cocks began crowing as early as April 4 but did not indulge in it freely until on & after the 28th. I heard no more than three at any one time & place.

112. Great Blue Heron. One seen by Zephaniah Potter on April 30, in a brush meadow near the old Hannah Green place in Carlsia.

113. Night Heron. On April 27, about 7.30 P.M., I was standing in front of our farm house when the quacking outcry of two Night Herons, calling to each other, came distinctly to my ears, seemingly from somewhere in or over Pulpit Rock woods.

114. Bittern. For the first time within my knowledge & recollection the river meadows were continuously, & for the most part deeply, submerged this season through April, May & June. Being thereby banished from their accustomed haunts the Bitterns were mostly forced to seek others elsewhere, although some merely removed to the nearest grassy or bushy ground above the reach of the flood. Thus one bird perched regularly

1916.

(Bittern) Somewhere near Birch Island and another at the extreme western end of Great Meadows while a third frequented Bigelow's Brook meadow. All three of these could be heard more or less distinctly from our farm house at evening when the air was calm. Occasionally one or another approached still more closely to ~~hear~~ awhile in some grassy hollow in Howie's or Lawrence's fields whenever its stentorian voice came loudly to our ears, even through closed chamber windows. Although scattered thus widely the Bitterns seemed as numerous as usual. Whether or not they had their customary success in rearing young I failed to ascertain.

115. Woodcock. Zephaniah Prosser heard a Woodcock frequenting & singing near his house in Carlisle on the evenings of April 11, 12, 15 & 16. I noted the species at our farm only on May 9 when our little Irish terrier, "Jim", flushed a male under some scattered junos near the south east corner of the cow pasture. That this bird should have been found there at such a date, yet neither before nor afterward, seems rather remarkable.

116. Wilson's Snipe. On the evening of April 16 I heard from our farm door yard a Snipe drawing in the direction of Bigelow's Brook and on that of the 26th another much nearer than the first and seemingly over Lawrence's fields just across the road. Very many birds were heard about the same time over a broad meadow in Carlisle. They could not frequent any of the wine meadows there having because of exceptionally protracted submergence there.

117. Greater Yellow Legs. The calling of one or more unseen birds, presumably flying over flooded wine meadows, was heard at our farm house on April 24 & at the Kiletri place on the 30th.

1916.

118. Solitary Sandpiper. I met with no bird of this species during the present spring but Mr. Dexter saw one in Fairy Land on May 16.

119. Spotted Sandpiper. Noted by me only on May 14 when two birds were seen flying together over the Assabet River near Banks' Nest Island.

120. Carolina Rail. At least half-a-dozen birds were heard singing or calling on May 30, by Walter Foxon & Smith O. Dexter, in a brush meadow lying just to the eastward of Lexington Park. They could find no congenial cover in most of the Concord River meadows because these remained flooded through the entire season but Mr. Dexter heard a bird singing near Egg Rock at the mouth of the Assabet, on July 3.

121. Canada Goose. Men in my employ reported seeing two flocks of Geese flying northward over Carleton on April 1 and passing the house of meadow birds there on April 11.

122. Mallard. One reaching Concord early in April. I learned that a ♀ Mallard had spent the winter in the river just below Flint's Bridge where the swift, eddying current prevented ice from forming over a space some less than several yards square. Here the bird remained continuously from sometime in December to well into March. Steadman Buttrick tells me that he fed it regularly with bread & disinterestedly kept her from starving.

123. Black Duck. Noted at October Farm only on May 1 when two birds appeared: one rising very high in air (1000 ft., I thought), flying eastward. At Dudley Pitman's place in Billerica I saw, on

1916

183 (Black Duck) June 4, a mated pair of native wild Black Ducks that had of their own accord joined the flock of Mallards in his pond where the female was first seen last August (1915) and the male some two months later. For a time they came and went on wing without any restraint & whenever they listed but at length were enticed into an inner enclosure and fenced. They are now very tame but as yet have not bred. Both are typical birds, with dull blackish plumage and olive brown legs & feet noticeably tinged with reddish. The drake's bill is uniformly dark, dull greenish in color; that of the duck is dull blackish. All this I saw unmistakably, while the birds were standing or walking about on land within a few yards of me.

Concord, Mass.

1916

August 30
to
November 4Autumn
field notes.

During the entire period included between these dates I lived so uninterruptedly at our Concord farm that not a single night was spent elsewhere. H. W. Henshaw was with me from September 2 to October 1. Rarely if ever before have I known an autumn so uniformly beautiful & serene. Up to November 1 it had no wholly rainy day and few dark, cloudy ones when not many were too windy or too chilly to be very enjoyable out-of-doors. Because of the infrequent rainfall there was little or no surface water to be found in most of the bushy swamps and grassy meadows that seldom lack it at any season and the surface soil throughout all upland woods became dry as tinder. But as this drought came so late and followed an exceptionally wet summer it did not cause much injury to vegetation, nor were the tenderest plants in our garden harmed by frost until October 18 when the

Time
weatherLight
rainfall.First
killing
frost.

Concord, Mass

1916.

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

Temperature fell, overnight, to 27° Fahr. and most cultivated flowers perished. Before that there had been only hawthorn, attractively whitening the landscape at sunrise every now and then and killing more or less hedges in lowland places. The thermometer mercury did not again fall below the 32° mark until the middle of November.

Autumnal coloring developed later and lasted longer than usual but otherwise was not exceptional.

Autumn
coloring.

Some swamp maples and most sumacs of every kind were ablaze by October 5th but ^{many of} the maples did not change thus before the 12th and a few

remained almost as uniformly green as in midsummer until after the 15th, while not all their leaves had fallen by the 20th - something that very seldom happens in our neighborhood. The splendid pageant was renewed and in some respects

Concord, Mass.

1916

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

even finer than before, between October 21 and 25 when the coloring of oak, hickory, elm and birch foliage was at its richest and best. Almost all deciduous trees shed their last leaves before the close of the month. Their general retention of them beyond the ordinary date of shedding must have been due, I suspect, to their exceptionally tardy development in May and June.

Autumn
foliage.

Autumnal migration of small, wood-frequency birds coming from further north was evidently well under way before my departure from Cambridge. After I had settled at Concord they appeared there in greatest numbers and variety during the next following three or four weeks, the heaviest flights occurring on September 9, 13, 26 & 30. Although for the most part no more than ordinarily abundant on any of these or other dates, northern-breeding warblers of various kinds were noted almost daily,

Bird
migrationWarblers

Concord, Mass.

1916
Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

sometimes by dozens or even scores in Birch Field where, Migrant
Warblers.

as is their regular custom at this season, they assembled
to feast on the gray-green Aphidæ which, however, were not
plentiful enough to attract them numerously until towards
the close of the month. Before then the Warblers were
more widely dispersed and hence less likely to be noticed.

Of the species which may be looked for, not without hope of success,
at such a time and place, every one was met with except
the Connecticut, the Mourning and the Orange-crowned.

The Tennessee Warbler was noted three (September 4, 5 & Tennessee

October 5), the Western Palm Warbler (September 26 & October 22) W. Palm

and the Prairie one (September 4), no more than one Prairie

representation of any of these being seen on each occasion

Yellow-rumps were normally abundant, Black-polls Yellow-rumps
Black-polls

comparatively scarce - as they have been, both in Spring & autumn,
for several seasons past, Bay-breasts no more plentiful Bay-breasts
than they were last autumn & much less so than in that of 1914.

Concord, Mass.

1916.

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

The Cape May Warbler used to be considered - no Cape May
Warblers
doubt rightly - a rare and irregular visitor to eastern Massachusetts. occasional
commonly.

Within the past few years it has been reported oftener and
more regularly but never heretofore in anything like the
numbers which appeared about our Concord farm this autumn.

It was first noted there on September 4 when three young birds (♂♂?)
were seen feeding together in gray bushes & white birches in Bird
Field, in company with Warblers of several other species.

On the 6th not less than ten or a dozen Cape May Warblers
spent the entire day (a dark-cloudy & mostly rainy one)
in trees or shrubbery near our house, ranging hither & thither
through the apple orchard, drifting to and fro along the
old farm lane and lingering for upwards of an hour
in thickets bordering on the lawn across which Henshaw
and I viewed them through our opera glasses and a plate
glass window of the dining room - within which we were

Concord, Mass.

1916

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4Gays May
Warblers.

then sitting. Nevertheless it proved impracticable to count them accurately at this or any other time for not all were ever in sight at once although as many as five or six sometimes showed themselves ^{perhaps} ~~they~~ in the same tree top or ~~perhaps~~ even on the same branch, while several others might simultaneously be less plainly seen, or merely heard chirping, amidst dense foliage not far off. Some were almost constantly engaged by couples in sportive pursuit of one another, during which they dashed ~~hither & thither~~ at top speed, alternately appearing in open spaces & disappearing among bordering thickets. Yet even the more widely scattered birds kept ever sufficiently in touch with all the rest to follow the same direction pursued by them when drifting back & forth. As has been stated there must have been altogether at least a dozen of them & it is not improbable that there may have been quite half

Concord, Mass.

1916.

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4Cape May
Warblers.

as many more. The only birds of other species seen with them were a Red-eyed Vireo & an Allen-bird. Hence the flock consisted almost solely of Cape May Warblers. Most of these were females showing little or no yellow and evidently young of the year but there were at least two males, one a handsome adult, the other immature. In the same neighborhood, but not equally near our house and for the most part in second-growth woods of birch, oak & pine, I afterwards noted a young ♀ Cape May on September 9, another on the 13th, a young ♂ on the 17th, an adult ♂ on the 25th and two ♂♂, one adult, the other immature, on October 3.

The appearance together at Concord of so many of these Warblers on one occasion and the not infrequent presence of others during a period covering almost an entire month would be more surprising were it not that within the past few years the beautiful birds have been

Concord, Mass

1916.

Aug. 30Nov. 4

reported as occurring elsewhere in ever-increasing numbers, Cape May
Warblers.
 especially while migrating southward in early autumn
 through Massachusetts and the Middle Atlantic States.

Whether or not there has been corresponding increase in
 throughout their breeding grounds in Northern New England
 and the Maritime Provinces, such as New Brunswick
 and Nova Scotia, it would be interesting to learn.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets, White-throated Sparrows and Kinglets.
 Juncos came and went in normal numbers but the
 White-throats lingered less long than usual probably Peabody
birds.
 because the cultivated grapes of which they are so very fond
 failed to mature for the most part. The Juncos, on the Juncos.
 other hand, stayed longer than common, being tempted to
 do so, no doubt, by a superabundance of millet seed
 furnished by a bird directly in front of the house. They,
 together with many other birds of various kinds, ^{also} were attracted

Concord, Mass.

1915.

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

attracted to that neighborhood by a broad and shallow Bathing
cemented pool made expressly for them at the edge of birds.
our little lawn and kept constantly brimming full. In this
they bathed very frequently and with evident keen enjoyment,
sometimes by dozens at a time and oftentimes when the sun
shone bright and warm, although by no means wholly
ungiven to similar indulgence during cloudy or perhaps
rainy weather, or even when, late in the season, the
water was not altogether free from ice. Such gatherings
often included Warblers, especially Black-polls & Yellow-rumps,
while Jays and Flickers came singly every now & then &
Robins very numerous, and regularly. There were times when
the pool was literally crowded with birds of various kinds
and sizes, thrashing the water with their wings and flinging
it upward in jets of silvery spray that sparkled in the
sunshine - a pretty sight to witness.

Concord, Mass.

1916

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

Rusty Blackbirds appeared oftener and more
numerously than they have for several seasons in the
recent past - although much less plentiful than during
their earlier years. I sometimes saw as many as ten
or a dozen together on wing but never more than three or
four at once in our corn field to which they resorted
thus sparingly, but almost daily, throughout October,
eating the kernels of sweet corn both before and after
they had become hard & shriveled.

Rusty
Blackbirds.

Tree Sparrows were so deplorably scarce that I
met with them only twice during the entire
autumn and noted no more than a single bird
on each of these occasions.

Tree
Sparrows.

The south-bound flight of Blue Jays coming
from further north was exceptionally heavy this year.
Beginning about the middle of September if not somewhat

Blue
Jays
migrating.

Concord, Mass.

1916

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4Blue Jay
migration.

earlier, it reached its maximum height between the 20th and 25th of the month when, for three or four days in succession,

the loud voiced birds were so abundant and wide-spread that one could not go anywhere without having them almost constantly in sight or hearing. During this period they especially frequented our deciduous woods through which they roamed ceaselessly in small, scattered flocks, seeking food which must have been rather scarce for most of the trees had suffered too severely from the attacks of gypsy moth & other larvae to mature fruit of any kind. There was, however, a single large scarlet oak, growing in an open field, which, having been protected by sprouting, bore its plentiful crop of acorns & on these the jays feasted as long as they lasted, holding them underfoot while hammering them with their beaks to remove the outer shell and thronging the tree at all hours of the day. I saw them thus engaged for the last

Concord, Mass.

1916

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

Time on October 6. During the remainder of that month Blue jays.
it was unusual to note more than two or three clearly and
almost none remained after November 1.

Flocks of Crows, bred or breeding further to the north Crow
and migrating southward over or past our farm, were noted migration.
there on October 13 (40+), 14 (2), 26 (large flock), 27 (37 counted / 115), 28 (37).
November 3 (198) ^{roughly} counted, 4 (50+), 11 (40+). Almost all these
flights occurred between 7 and 10 a.m. The birds composing
them invariably pursued a south-westerly or perhaps even
easterly course, never a directly southward one. They
usually passed very high in air, following one another
in straggling order and at such wide intervals that
the vanguard of a flock containing no more than
one hundred members might become lost to view in
the far distance before its rearward appeared in sight.
Such, at least, was their custom in clear and serene

Concord, Mass

1916
Aug. 30
Nov. 4

Migrating
Crows.

weather when it was interesting to watch their
leisurely, level and straight-onward flight as they
passed in seemingly endless and impressively well-ordered
procession all keeping to nearly the same elevated, aerial
pathway but following one another at least fifty or more
yards apart. On such occasions the sound of their
voices, ~~coming from far & near~~, was very pleasing,
especially when mellowed by distance. For the most
it consisted of single caws, uttered with ever-varying
intimations by widely-separated members of the whole
throng. There was seldom or never any clamorous and
general outcry excepting when, as occasionally happened,
the birds descended to feed awhile in grassy meadows or
fields of unharvested corn. Then and there they were
given to not infrequent outbursts of prolonged & vigorous
cawing in which every member of the flock seemed to be

Concord, Mass.

1916.

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

Taking part.

Migrating
Crows.

Although passing oftenest during tranquil weather the migrant Crows sometimes appeared when it was otherwise and then might be seen in rather compact flocks now mounting above, next disappearing below or behind wooded ridges with many a graceful, curving swoop, as they advanced laboriously against violent, adverse gusts of wind. Our locally-resident Crows seemed disinclined to interfere with such alien ones invading their haunts of such occasions but instead busied themselves with their own affairs, in accustomed ways.

That most if not all of them remain in Concord throughout the year is open to little doubt. Such, at least, is certainly the case with one particular bird whose unvarying and characteristic law - Caw - caw

Resident
Crows

(very strongly emphasized on the second syllable) has

Concord, Mass.

1916

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

been heard at every season, for now half a dozen
or more years, in the neighborhood of our farm and
at Bass' Hill. Both localities have been frequented
still longer, if less constantly, by another Crow whose
habitual, if not only, utterance (I have heard him give
no other) is a deep-intoned oh-ah not unlike that of a
Barred Owl and having acoustic qualities which render the
sound extremely difficult to locate both as regards distance
and direction. Often have I thought its author far away
when he was close at hand, or vice versa. He comes and
goes at all seasons but sometimes is apparently absent for
several successive weeks - or even months.

Resident
Crows with
peculiar
calls.

Diurnal birds of prey appeared rather more numerous
than in the autumn of 1915 but decidedly less so than
was their custom at corresponding seasons of still earlier years.
Most of them, indeed, are no longer seen in any thing

Diurnal
Raptors.

Concord, Mass

1916.

Aug. 30
Nov. 4

like their former numbers although exceptions to the Hawks.
rule are afforded by the Red-shouldered Hawk, which Red-should
continues to reappear as plentifully as ever, and by the Sparrowhawk
Sparrow hawk, now a common frequenter of much open
country where it occurred only very rarely, if at all, not
long ago. The Red-tailed Hawk, on the other hand, has Red-tail
wholly ceased within the last decade to reoccupy any of its
former haunts near Concord while most of those which
the Marsh Hawk once tenanted ~~is~~ visited so regularly Marsh H.
in spring and summer, and so, ^{very} abundantly in early autumn,
no longer afford daily opportunities of watching the graceful,
low-gliding flight of that attraction. Equally obvious
if somewhat less to be deplored is the fact that
Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks have diminished Cooper's &
Sharp-shin
rapidly and very considerably in numbers during the
past few years. I failed to obtain evidence that

Couacod, Mass.

1916.

Aug 30
to
Nov. 4

either species bred anywhere in our neighborhood last spring, nor was the former bird ever noted there this autumn. But Sharp-shins, occurring singly and presumably coming from regions lying further north, were observed on September 1, 14, 19, 30 and October 1 while two such birds were seen on September 20.

Cooper's
Sharp-shin
Hawks

Early in the forenoon of September 7, H. W. Henshaw and I were rowing down Couacod River from the Manor to Ball's Hill when a very large and unusually long-tailed Hawk appeared, at first flying straight and swiftly towards us, two or three hundred feet above a wide expanse of grassy meadow land, next soaring on set wings to a somewhat greater height over the little river-lagoon known as "Hunt's Pond". This viewed in clear sunlight, and no more than 150 yards distant from where our boat floated in mid

Goshawk.

Concord, Mass.

1916

Aug. 30

Nov. 4

Goshawks

stream, the big bird was certainly recognizable as a female Goshawk, immature as to the plumage of her breast & flanks, which were coarsely marked longitudinally, with blackish, but with much blue on the back, which, however, overspread that feet in broad patches separated from one another by more or less brownish, instead of quite uniformly, as with fully adult Goshawks. We could see all this plainly enough through our field glasses as the bird swung around and around in narrow circles, alternately showing the upper and under surfaces of her body, wings and tail. She finally resumed direct, southward flight and quietly passed out of sight beyond some tall maples that line the river banks.

A second Goshawk, differing from the first by being altogether clothed in plumage characteristic of young - not merely immature - birds of its species, was observed by

Concord, Mass.

1916.

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4Goshawks

Henshaw and myself on September 28, at Birch Field,
 Accompanied by two Red-shouldered Hawks, keeping one
 with or near them and occasionally swooping down abruptly
 at one or the other it remained in sight for several minutes
 and once circled low over us (within fair shot-gun range)
 when we saw that it had a plain brown back and
 profusely dark-streaked underparts. As compared with the
 Red-shouldered Hawks it looked larger than either—although
 one was an adult female and showed a conspicuously
 longer tail. Its soaring flight resembled theirs very closely
 but when gliding straight onward, with alternating
 quick-flapping and stiff-set wings it might have been
 mistaken for a young Cooper's Hawk but for its greater size.

On October 3, a Hawk that looked precisely like
 the one last mentioned and was probably the self-same bird,
 passed high over Birch Field to the southward, while
 S. W. Dexter & I were strolling there together.

Concord, Mass.

1916.

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4Marsh
Hawk.

The Marsh Hawk was noted only three during the entire autumn—on September 14, 28 and October 25. On each of these occasions a single adult ♂ was seen soaring in quest of prey, after the usual manner of his kind, over grassy upland fields within or near the boundaries of our farm. Birds of the same species, similarly employed, may perhaps have visited the river meadows somewhat often, but as to this I am unable to testify because so seldom there myself.

Fish
Hawk.

Ospreys, migrating southward, were seen on two occasions;—September 7, when one passed near Balls Hill while Henshaw was practicing golf in Burrows' pasture, and September 17, when I happened to spy another flying above our farm orchard so very high in air that it looked no bigger than a Swallow. Journeying thus, through elevated space undimmed by either cloud or haze, it may then have had within range of its keen

Concord, Mass.

1916

Aug 30
to
Nov. 4

& far-reaching vision very much of southern New England
if not also Long Island Sound.

A ♀ Pigeon Hawk, flying swiftly westward about a
noon of October 28, passed low over several fields
where tame Pigeons, perched on a shed roof at our
farm, without showing any signs of noticing them
but they, without exception, kept their mild eyes
fixed on her, each bird tilting its head over sideways
so as to bring one eye uppermost, for they seldom
employ more than one while gazing thus at any thing
directly overhead. I saw the hawk well enough to
feel assured that it was a young bird.

Pigeon
Hawk

Screech Owls were heard not infrequently at evening
throughout the month of October, in trees growing close to
our farm house or in the Berry Pasture. They uttered their
wailing cries oftener about sunset, and sometimes before it,
although I have seldom known this happen in former years.

Screech
Owl.

Concord, Mass.

1916

Aug. 30

Nov. 4

Within that autumnal season to which the

BarredOwl.

present record especially relates no Owl other than Megascops
 was noted by me at Concord but during a fleeting visit
 to one farm on December 6 I ran across a Barred Owl.
 It happened unexpectedly, as such occurrences almost always
 do, and early in the afternoon, when George Baker & I were
 returning from Bird Island, through dense pine woods at the
 north-east extremity of Bird Field. We had stopped
 to look at a tree marked for cutting and were talking about
 it rather loudly when the bird started from the
 upper branches of a tall pitch pine, standing some twenty
 yards away, and flew off through the tree tops, with
 incessant, leisurely, moth-like wing beats. His
 feet and legs being down and showed conspicuously,
 (almost if not quite for the entire length of the tarsi)
 when he first took flight but were drawn up out

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Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

Barred
Owl.

of sight within the body plumage before he had gone
Ten rods. Marking his course he followed it for several
hundred yards but failed to set eyes on him again.

Carolina
Dove.

Early in the forenoon of September 18, while striding
through Birch Field, I flushed Ten Carolina Doves from
a sunny opening on the crest of a sandy knoll for
the most part densely overgrown with tall gray birches
and young loblolly pines. Eight birds rose all at once, in
as compact a flock or bevy as so many startled quail,
and like these dove ~~farther~~ - yet not widely - apart
after flying a few rods. The silvery whistling sound
made by their rapid-beating wings was very pleasing
especially when coming more and more faintly to my ears
as they passed out of sight beyond a line of trees.

They were followed by the remaining two birds a few moments
later. It is unusual to meet with so many of these Doves
together anywhere near Concord. They occur there less
commonly now than fifteen or twenty years ago.

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to
Nov. 4

Ruffed
Grouse

Ruffed Grouse were somewhat more numerous
representing those usual in September, throughout woodland
bordering on our farm lands. By day they especially
frequented the Swampy Run, at evening certain parts of
the Berry Pasture where wild grape vines, trailing over
trees & bushes, were loaded with ripening fruit.

The crop of one killed and eaten thus by a Fox was
filled with these grapes which had been swallowed whole.
Signs were not wanting to show that the unfortunate
bird had been seized, presumably at night, while roosting
only a few feet above the ground in a bushy young white
pine and that the Fox had taken her thence to an
opening scarce ten yards away. After biting off
many if not most of her breathers, as is customary with
all members of his tribe when dealing with a devoured quarry,
he had apparently
partied of flesh and bone except the crop; the entrails;

Eaten by
Fox

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Aug. 30
to Nov 4

both feet and legs with the thigh bones and all flesh belonging to them intact; one entire wing, severed close to the body; and the anterior half of the skull. Some of these remains lay beneath the fur, others in the opening. I found them on September 24 when their condition indicated that the Partridge must have been killed only a few hours previously. It is unusual for a Fox to leave so much of any victim, feathered or furred, but its entrails are never eaten.

Ruffed
Grouse

Shortly after breakfast on the morning of September 10 H. W. Henshaw and I were following an old wood road that leads past Pulpit Rock when "Tim", the little Irish terrier who accompanied us, flushed no less than eighteen Partridges, mostly young about two-thirds grown, from a bushy hollow only a few yards square & within close shot gun range of where we stood. At least a dozen of them rose all at once &

Flock of
eighteen
Partridge

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to
Nov. 4

Ruffed
Grouse.

so very near together that a large bird spread might have covered every one of them or a charge of shot fired into their midst have killed three or four. The remaining birds followed them singly in quick succession. Seven or eight presumably belonging to the same flock started from essentially the same spot when we passed it late that afternoon. Its only obvious attraction for them was that offered by the presence of some low blueberry bushes, then but scantily supplied with over-ripe fruit.

Not more than ten or a dozen Grouse remained in the immediate neighborhood of our farm when the shooting season began on October 12. They were then most likely to be found singly, either along the Run or in Black Field. "Jimmy" & I hunted them for an hour or two almost daily, during the remainder of the month. Thus harassed they soon became exceedingly wary, often flushing beyond gun-range and

Partridge
shooting

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1916.

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

Partridge
Shooting

When on wing within it usually taking such prompt and systematic advantage of cover afforded by dense foliage or wooded tree trunks that only the most difficult "snap shots" at them could be had. But every now and then a bird more headless or less resourceful than the rest would be driven in my direction by the little dog and perhaps brought lifeline to earth by a charge from the 20 gauge gun. It was oftentimes discharged in vain, however, even at grouse not far off & in open view, for such skill as once attended its more frequent use has largely ceased to do so either through disuse or because of somewhat impaired sight or less steady nerves. Nevertheless I enjoyed the pursuit of these admirable game birds exceedingly and was especially pleased to bring one down lifeline, just as it disappeared among dense pine foliage, after crossing an opening only a few yards wide, and another where it

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to
Nov. 4

Partridge
Shooting.

was dashing at meteoric speed through the tops of tall birches. The total bag consisted of only five and three of these were "treed" by "Tim" and shot while perched. To thus take advantage of such opportunities may be considered ^{some but} unsportsmanlike by, has never been so regarded by me. For it cannot often be accomplished without preliminary "stalking", usually to escape the notice of the ever watchful birds unless very skillfully conducted, yet certain to yield its own reward in the way of much pleasurable excitement whatever may be its final indirect outcome.

Besides the five Grouse actually bagged as above mentioned no others are known to have received any injury from my gun or any other, in woodland where I hunted them. As it apparently harbored only two when & after the shooting season closed. Before

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to
Nov. 4

Ruffed
Grouse

These Birch Field was regularly frequented, for weeks in succession, by half a dozen or more birds. They were more or less given to scattering about singly by day but almost invariably came together shortly before sunset, in a sheltered little hollow partly shaded by a few small Barches and hemmed in on every side by taller pines and birches. Here I flushed them oftentimes from the ground, near or perhaps directly beneath the barches. It must have afforded them some food especially attractive or exceptionally abundant but to my eye the vegetation, both herbaceous & arboreal, did not differ essentially from that common to the entire neighborhood. except as regards the barches—originally planted by me there & elsewhere in a few places where they are not indigenous. Their presence may have accounted for that of the Grouse although I was unable to find

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Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

anything in or under them which seemed likely to be eaten by these birds.

Puffed
Grouse.

Cock Partridges drummed less often than usual in our woodlands this autumn, although the weather was apparently more than ordinarily favorable for such performance. I heard them engaged in it only twice in September (22nd & 29th); but four times during October (4th, 7th, 18th & 30th); not once after the close of the latter month. On all but one of these occasions the sound came either from swampy cover near the head of the Run or from where, lower down, it is crossed by an ancient stone wall enveloped in tangled thickets. This, ever since I first became familiar with it, ^{has been} resorted to every spring and autumn by drumming Grouse although they frequent it somewhat less regularly now than formerly.

Autumnal
drumming

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to
Nov. 4

Ring-necked Pheasants cannot have reared many, if Ring-necked
Pheasants
any, young last summer, at least in our neighborhood,
for those appearing there in autumn were few in number
and apparently, without exception, adults of which nearly all
were cocks, handsomely plumed and thoroughly versed in
wiles by the exercise of which birds of their kind and sex
safeguard themselves so generally from every danger. They
and the hens frequented the Berry Pasture chiefly but
so sparingly and inconsistently as to be seen for the most
part ^{only} singly & not oftener than once or twice weekly. One or
two resorted occasionally to a field of millet at the Ritchie
place or to Lawrence's wide-stretching mowing fields, but none
were either seen or heard in many another near-by
haunt from which they have seldom absented themselves
in former years. During the entire open season
(Oct 12 - Nov. 12) I hunted them persistently, at every

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Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

Pheasant
shooting.

favorable opportunity but with such indifferent success that only two were brought to bag - both in the Berry Pasture, where a small patch of sweet corn had been grown and left unharvested, last year as well as this, for the express purpose of attracting Pheasants. They came to it only in the early morning and late afternoon. Any that happened to be found there at such hours could usually be closely approached without much difficulty by stealing up behind a neighboring brush pile and thence making a quick dash in among the tall and crowded corn stalks. Birds thus surprised while filling their crops with ripening maize might rise at once on wing, perhaps from well-nigh underfoot, mounting almost straight upward to a height of fifteen or twenty feet before adopting level flight - thereby offering me conspicuous targets which it seemed impossible to

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Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4Pheasant
Shooting.

miss but at which the 20 gauge gun was, I am bound to confess, discharged more than once in vain. Nor could it always be brought to shoulder before the big birds had passed almost beyond its range for they flew quite as swiftly as Ruffed Grouse although rarely seeming to do so. Some of those encountered among the corn were too cool-headed and resourceful to risk exposing themselves in the manner just described but instead sneaked off on foot between the rows, into tangled thickets beyond, where it would have been futile to follow them with any hope of obtaining a fair shot.

Although Pheasants retiring thus were almost never seen I could usually trace their no less rapid than stealthy progress through the corn by hearing the pitter-patter of their feet on its fallen husks, or fainter & more rustling sounds made by their bodies brushing past crisp,

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Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

low-drooping fronds, while every now and then some bird Pheasant
Shooting
more hurried or heedless than the rest might strike a
slender, semi-prostitute stalk hard enough to make it
tremble perceptibly.

During September and October I never once
noted more than three Pheasants in the course of a
single day, but four were seen in the Busy Pasture
on November 1 and six on the 10th. The first one shot,
a splendid cock, was instantly killed and quickly found
lying back upward in a matted bed of low blueberry. The
other, an adult female, fell broken-winged & being otherwise
unhurt made such prompt use of her legs that she would
doubtless never have been seen again had not "Jimmy" trailed
her through dense brush, for upward of sixty yards, to a
ground juniper beneath which she lay crouching. This seems
worthy of record because it has so often been asserted
that no dog can ever locate a merely wing-broken Pheasant
except, perhaps, when pursuing it by sight, on open ground.

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1916.

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

When an old cock Pheasant is flushed by either man or dog he is likely to call oc. oc. oc. oc. oc. in hoarse tones and almost certain to make - presumably with his muscular wings - a rather loud clattering sound not unlike that which may be produced by drawing the tip end of a cane across the slate of a pocket fence. He then is ungiven to any vocal outcry on such occasions - or, for that matter, many others - but his flight is commonly accompanied by a continuous whistling noise, ungrammatically proceeding from the wings. It is lower-pitched than that of the Woodcock; less silvery than that of the Carolina Dove; perhaps most like that of the Golden-eye Duck, although not nearly so far reaching - being quite inaudible at distances exceeding one or two hundred yards and perhaps not to be heard beyond fifty or sixty yards when there is strong wind blowing.

Vocal &
wing sounds
made by
living
Pheasants

1916

111

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1916

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

Of the larger marsh and river frequenting birds I saw Marsh
~~river~~ frequenting
birds.
 little or nothing this autumn excepting while rowing from
 the Mass. to Ball's Hill, with H. W. Henshaw, during
 the forenoon of September 7. They were then encountered
 in greater numbers and variety than has happened
 within my personal experience and along the same stretch
 of river, for very many years. Besides enjoying the
 sight of them we were glad to infer from their exceptional
 fearlessness, as well as comparative abundance, that
 they must be nesting there regularly and could not
 have suffered recent molestation from gun-bearing men
 or boys. This was especially indicated by the behavior Great
Blue Herons
 of them or from Great Blue Herons who flitted on singly,
 ahead of one adorning boat, for the distance of a mile
 or more, sometimes alighting in trees but oftener neck-deep
 in shallow river reaches where they might stand

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1916.

Aug. 30
to
Nov. 4

watching our approach or perhaps ignore it seemingly while facing in other directions and bending their heads downward as if looking for fishy prey. Rowing slowly in mid stream we repeatedly got within long shot-gun range of them and almost equally near eight Black Ducks that rose on wing together from the shallow of passage of the river known as Heron's Pond. Similarly, if not even more, confiding were the two Night Herons, three Great Night & Green Herons, Herons and five or six Kingfishers seen during the trip. Kingfishers Of all the interesting experiences connected with it perhaps Wood Ducks the most noteworthy was that occurring just before it ended when a Wood Duck first appeared on wing above the crest of Ball's Hill and then pitched down into the little bush-enclosed lagoon across the river, to be flushed there some two others of its kind only a few minutes later, when our boat was pushed in through a narrow

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1916.

Aug. 30
to
Sept. 4

connecting channel. All these birds rose together from a flooded thicket beside the open pool and flew low over the Great Meadows, uttering a few oh-call calls. It was good to hear these once familiar but now almost forgotten notes and to have even so fleeting a view of their authors.

Besides the birds above reported and a Red-bank Goshawk mentioned in a previous connection, we saw three Red-shouldered Hawks soaring together high in air Red should
Hawks above the meadows while their shrill outcry, pleasantly softened by distance, came to our ears every now & then throughout most of the forenoon.

An African Romance

It has long been known, of course, that animals not specifically related and perhaps very unlike sometimes become strongly attached to each other especially when in captivity and rather closely confined. An interesting instance of this first came to my notice upwards of a year ago.

It resulted indirectly from chance perusal of a dealer's catalogue wherein "fancy fowls" in bewildering variety and of apparently rare attractiveness of remarkable utility, were attractively pictured and described. There were also so-called "settings" of their eggs. Being particularly tempted by the latter I purchased rather many - at appropriately "fancy" prices. Plymouth Rock hens incubated them at our farm in Concord with admirable fidelity, but not much success. Of the few that hatched one produced a gosling said to have originated from an "African Swan", another a Guinea-fowl chick - each sole representation of its kind then and there brought into the world.

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1916.

Late in the spring of 1915 a dealer's catalogue of The Goose
Guinea-hen romances.
 "Fancy" Poultry reached me, by Rural Delivery mail, at
 our Concord farm house. Besides ^{advertising} living fowl in
 bewildering variety and of rare attractiveness or
 "utility", if illustrations and text pertaining to them could
 be credited, it offered so-called "settings" of Guinea
eggs. These so tempted me that I finally purchased
 rather many - at appropriately "fancy" prices, it is
 perhaps needless to add. They were put under Plymouth
 Rock hens, who incubated them with admirable
 fidelity but not much success. Of the few that
 hatched one produced a Guinea-fowl chick, another
 a gosling said to be that of an African Goose*. Each
 of the two fluffy little things was the only one of its kind
 there and there brought into the world. Their
 happened about July 10, during my absence from Concord.

* This bird was identically
 like a young one I saw in
 typical appearance of a
 African Goose, but I was
 not sure of it.

1916.

Concord, Mass.

Both birds were soon afterwards put in a small, grass-grown enclosure which had no other occupant save one of the foster-mothers already mentioned and she had been removed when I first saw them then - on August 30. They were then more than one-half grown and already well feathered. We separated them a month or so later, placing the Goose in a large poultry yard tenanted by about fifty adult Plymouth Rock ^{hens} and a few roosters, the Guinea fowl in a smaller one devoted to chickens of various ages. This arrangement proved ill-advised for during the remainder of that day each bird refused to eat and tried persistently to escape by thrusting its head and neck through meshes of a wire fence, or else paced ceaselessly to and fro, calling pitiously and evidently "pining for its lost mate." "Contraign" as it "as ~~Concord~~, my foreman, said. So we took the Guinea-hen to the larger enclosure next morning

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1916

whereupon she ran straight to the horse and the oddly-contrasting couple became happily reunited, never again to part company for so much as a single hour while both lived. It was no less touching than pleasing to witness the unrestrained joy of their first meeting, manifested so prettily by tender caresses lavished alternately by each on ~~other~~ for upwards of twenty minutes, during which there was almost ceaseless flow of subdued cooing, chuckling, gurgling or murmuring vocal utterances, also presumably expressive of endearment.

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1916

Its physical manifestation could not have been mistaken for anything else - albeit for the most part deviously restrained, and never so much as remotely suggestion of sexual passion or desire. Sometimes the big and the little bird contented themselves with merely cuddling close together; oftentimes there was frequent interchange of gentle fondling; by bill or cheek touched lightly or rubbed softly against a corresponding part or perhaps elsewhere. The Sumner here seldom essayed more than this but the Goose repeatedly thrust out his long neck over her shoulder back and thrust beneath one of her folded wings until his head appeared just beyond it - a grotesque attention which seemed to give both birds especial pleasure and satisfaction. That all these demonstrations, together with the vocal sounds accompanying them, must be

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1916.

interpreted as already suggested is open to no question,
at least in my mind. Similar behavior was afterwards
indulged in daily, if not hourly, at every season, but
~~perhaps now~~ again so raptiously as on the first occasion.

The affectionate devotion thus indicated seemed to be equally
shared by both birds and wholly unalloyed by sexual
passion although otherwise so love-like. Continued without
known interruption or abatement through the ensuing year
it apparently - dominated individual tastes and
to such a degree
preferences, that little or no interest was taken in any pleasure or
pursuit which could not be shared in common.

Yet these, soon comparisons differed
no less obviously in character and temperament than in
~~physical attributes~~, the Goose being confident, intelligent
and placid-minded, the Guinea-hen fiercely distrustful
and nervously restless - after the usual manner of her kind.

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1916.

Perhaps this very dissimilarity formed the chief basis of their romantic friendship, just as the so-termed "attraction of opposites" is thought to promote human relations of corresponding kind, ^{so} often entered into happily by persons altogether unlike and ~~otherwise~~ ^{seemingly} ~~unsuited~~ to get on well together.

After passing their first winter in the large poultry yard the Goose and Guinea-hen were removed early next Spring to a sort of aviary built against the shed-end of our farm house and partly under a projection of its roof but elsewhere ~~having no better~~ ^{having} protection against the weather than that afforded by wire netting overspread with grape vines. Here they lived contentedly enough for several months, in close companionship - for the ground space was limited - with three Mallard Ducks, half a dozen domestic fowl of various kinds and about ~~three~~ as many white Pigeons.

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1916.

Indifferent, yet not unfriendly, in their attitude towards all these the devoted ^{couple} kept apart by themselves as much as possible and either coolly ignored or mildly repelled occasional advances made by one or another ^{of the others} with evident desire for closer acquaintance.

This spirit of ~~independence~~ aloofness was especially shown when, as happened every now and then, the inmates of the aviary were turned out to do whatever they liked — except scratch in the flower beds. Thus first, the Ducks, Hens and Pigeons usually remained close about the house whereas the Geese and the Guinea hen invariably went off together to wander happily, ~~in~~ beneath the shade of orchard trees, amid ^{fragrant} meadow grass or through tall-growing, unharvested corn, perhaps to rather distant woods beyond. It may well be doubted if either bird would have cared to go without the other on these excursions. The Goose, assuredly, would not thus have undertaken

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1916.

them, being too ill-adapted by nature for prolonged terrestrial locomotion. Nevertheless he accomplished it cheerfully enough by plodding straight onward after his beloved, more than content, apparently, with enjoyment of opportunities thereby afforded of having her wholly to himself. She, meanwhile, was likely to keep somewhat in advance, running hither and thither swiftly, answering his occasional clarion calls with harsh, cackling ones and otherwise behaving in the manner characteristic of all her light-footed, feather-headed and objectionably vociferous race.

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1916.

Although unknown to me quarrel with other inmates of the aviary the Guinea-hen often did so with those of the larger poultry yard, sometimes attacking them most viciously, perhaps without much if any evident provocation. On such occasions the Goose always hastened to her aid with wide-spread wings and loud outcry. Thus assailed by both no Plymouth Rock hen, however big and sturdy, could hope to escape a sound drubbing unless by quick retreat. Even a veteran rooster of that breed, truculent and dominating as befitted an overlord of the harem, was once made to share liberally in such punishment when trying to safeguard one of his wives from it. He, indeed, was finally driven into a remote corner of the yard and remained there moping for the next half hour, pitifully humiliated in spirit and perhaps also suffering bodily pain - for the Goose could strike hard with both bill and wing when so inclined.

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The inscribable, adde petid Guinea-hen, ~~thought to be~~
a female but never certainly identified as such, seemed
undesirous of human notice and hence got little of it. But
so the Goose who both inspired and ~~inspired~~ ~~inspired~~ it, being ever
an attractively friendly, sagacious and interesting bird much
belied by cowardly about the place. When closely approached and
spoken to by anyone familiarly known he would promptly advance
with glad outcry, slow-flapping wings and sinuous ~~movements~~ of
head and neck - all alike betokening amicable greeting. It
must be confessed that large greenish eggs which no
other fowl could possibly have laid were sometimes found in
the aviary but that did not happen until general use
of the name "Duck", and of masculine pronouns similarly
applied, had become too firmly established to be
then discredited or afterwards discontinued, because of any
such belated evidence of femininity.

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Both birds seemed perfectly well when I left them and returned to Cambridge for the winter, on November 4. Burbank noticed nothing wrong with either of them during the next two months but early in January, 1917, the Grouse became sickened and died - somewhat emaciated. Although then in apparently vigorous health & normal flesh the Goose breathed his last only a few days later - having meanwhile declined all food, however tempting. Perhaps it merely happened so but I am more inclined to think that the one no longer cared to live without the other. Nor is it difficult for me to believe that if there be really spiritual existence after death for any mortal creatures it will not be denied these two or vouchsafed them on terms less mutually intimate than those enjoyed by them while living. However all that may be regarded as anyone who takes interest in this avian romance must admit that it had a singularly appropriate ending.

Cambridge, Mass.

1916.

November

16

There was a somewhat belated Myrtle Warbler in Crow
our garden on November 12. Either the same or a similar-looking eating
bird appeared there again on the morning of the 16th when, about 9 dead
o'clock, I watched it for several minutes as it flitted through the Myrtle
branches of a settled pear tree, seeking food of some kind among the Warbler
terminal twigs, where it repeatedly hung back downward like a
Titmouse, chirping cheerily every few seconds and behaving altogether
in a manner indicative of sound health and high spirits.
Half an hour later (at 12 o'clock, noon) I heard Crows cawing in
the jungle and presently saw three of them perched rather high
in leafless trees. One held beneath his foot, on a stout branch,
a fluffy, grayish object which I thought at first might be a
dilapidated bird-nest; but when, presently, he brought it into a cherry
tree not far from my window I could see plainly enough that it
was a dead Myrtle Warbler whose bright yellow rump and
other characteristic markings showed conspicuously in the clear

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1916

November

16

(No 2)

Sunlight. For several minutes after this he continued to tug and jerk at it vigorously, pulling out several feathers at a time and tossing them aside to be blown away by the strong wind or plunging his bill into the limp little body as if endeavoring to extract from it strands of meat or viscous matter, however, he apparently failed to thus obtain. Indeed I was not a little surprised to note how futile and bungling he seemed to be at both these undertakings. The other two Crows watched him from near-by perches all the while but made no obvious attempt to interfere with him in any way. Followed by the others he finally flew afar off to the northward, carrying the Warbler away in his bill. Presumably it was the self-same Yellow-crown seen above earlier in the day for no other was afterwards to be found within our grounds. If he really caught and killed the unfortunate little bird it would be interesting to know just how this was accomplished.

Crow
with dead
Myrtle
Warbler

Cambridge, Mass.

1916

Nov. 22

A Junco seen in our Garden on the afternoon of Nov. 20 attracted my attention by its peculiar coloring which led me to suspect that it might be either Oregonus or Shufeldti. Of this I could not then make sure for the bird was then only imperfectly visible, - flitting beneath argean branches in the "jungle". But early this afternoon it reappeared and permitted me to watch it closely for many minutes as it hopped fearlessly along the garden walk in the middle of which I was standing, at first some ten or fifteen yards away, finally within not more than five or six feet. All the while it was exposed to clear, if pale, November sunlight and accompanied by three other Juncos typical of hyemalis, a ♂ and 2 ♀♀. Thus the conditions were in every respect as favorable as they well could have been for noting, accurately the bird's color and markings and also for comparing it directly with Juncos of both sexes characteristic of the common eastern race and in corresponding seasonal plumage. Thus compared it looked somewhat larger than any of the others and was colored so unlike them all that the difference was very striking. For it had a dull black head and neck (somewhat washed with ashy along the nape), a coal black chest & viraceous - cinnamon flanks while its back and scapulars were very strongly tinged with rich, warm chocolate brown, more or less obscured, however, by grayer tinging. Immediately after observing all these details I went into the museum and looked over very many skins of eastern Juncos. Three of the latter which most resembled the living bird (several of them matched it almost perfectly) are perhaps intergrades between Shufeldti and Oregonus, being somewhat too richly colored for the former, yet not sufficiently so for the latter. But as one of them was labeled "Shufeldti" not long ago by Mr. Ridgway it seems safe enough to assume that the bird seen in our garden should be similarly referred.

The above note was written shortly after the second observation was made. Later in the afternoon (of the 22d) the four Juncos came (with 2 Robby birds) close under my window, eating millet seed placed there for them.

Shufeldti
Junco in
our Garden.

Cambridge, Mass.

1916

November

23-30

During this period the Sherbald's Juncos reappeared in the Garden on five different days. He was accompanied on the 23rd by two Eastern Juncos (hyemalis), on the 25th by five, on the 27th by five or six, on the 29th by six, on the 30th by four. Walter Deane had a good view of him from my study window on the morning of the 23rd and was much impressed by his rich, dark coloring, especially that of his chest which looked, as Walter said, quite as glossy black as that of a male Towhee. The bird was then feeding with other Juncos and still more numerous House Sparrows, on a space of bare ground within a few yards of the Museum, where millet seed had been scattered profusely. A liberal supply of it, renewed from day to day, continued to attract birds of all three kinds up to the very close of the month, after which the Sherbald's Junco was not again seen although from one to four common Juncos came to the seed on December 2, 3, 4 & 5.

Sherbald's

Juncos

in
our Garden



Low
1917
1